

Armed police vigil after 'barbaric outrage'

Photograph: UPITN



The moment Policewoman Fletcher was shot... and her fiancé, Police constable Michael Liddle (far right), tends her as she lies dying

Libya embassy shots kill policewoman

By Alan Hamilton, Stewart Tendler and John Witherow

Armed police were last night surrounding the Libyan People's Bureau in St James's Square, London, after a gunman in the building fired into a crowd of demonstrators, killing a policewoman and wounding 11 other people.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, condemned the shooting as "a most disgraceful and barbaric outrage". The British Government has protested to Libya, but Libyan radio in turn reported "a most terrible terrorist action" on the part of the British police.

As ministers and senior officials were summoned to an emergency meeting of COBRA, the special contingency unit set up to deal with serious terrorist incidents, the Prime Minister, who is on an official visit to Portugal, expressed grave concern at the shooting and offered her sympathies to the family of the dead policewoman, and her appreciation of her "great bravery".

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells, head of Scotland Yard's press department, said the first priority of the police was "to make sure this is resolved without further bloodshed". The police did not know how many people were in the bureau, but they did not believe there were any hostages, and they also believed the gunman who opened fire was still inside the building.

Mr Wells said: "We are prepared for a long wait; time is on our side."

The police were not sure how many gunmen were in the bureau, and they were also unsure of the diplomatic status of those inside.

He said that shortly after the shooting, at 10.10am, a man was released from the building, who proved to be "a press representative", who was helping police with their inquiries.

Mr Wells hinted that diplo-

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A difficulty, however, is that the premises, being a diplomatic mission, is by convention protected from British law, and police may enter only by the invitation of the head of mission, or the embassy's own government.

Yesterday afternoon, hours after the shooting, police arrested six men at Heathrow airport, London, but Scotland Yard said some of those arrested had been near the incident. The arrests came soon after the Foreign Office had instructed a British Caledonian aircraft, on a scheduled flight to Tripoli, to turn back to London when it

levels were still short of continental standards.

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Tests criticized

A former Home Office forensic scientist criticized the way the new Intoximeter breath test equipment was introduced, and the presentation of technical evidence in court Page 4

Heart cash plea

Health experts want the Government to spend £60m tackling heart disease. They say 40,000 lives could be saved every year. Page 4

was more than half way to its destination.

Last night three men were still being detained, but no charges had been brought.

The officer killed in the shooting was named as Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, based at Bow Street police station. She was taken to Westminster Hospital, but died of gunshot wounds two hours after the shooting, as surgeons fought vainly to save her life. She came from Shaftesbury, Dorset and joined the police force seven years ago.

WPC Fletcher died in an incident which began as a routine police operation to patrol what was expected to be a normal demonstration by a group of 70 Libyans, who had travelled by bus from the north of England, outside the elegant, five-storey, People's Bureau, which in the confused world of Libyan politics is their equivalent of an embassy in London. Police had erected temporary barriers in the square to contain the small crowd.

The demonstrators were wearing masks and hoods and some carried banners hostile to Colonel Gaddafi. Meanwhile two other small groups, each of about 20, formed a rival demonstration, which contained peacefully by police in another part of the square.

Shortly after 10am, suddenly and without warning, a burst of machine-gun fire from a window in the building, lasting only a few seconds, exploded on the crowd beneath. Horrified bystanders saw WPC Fletcher crumple to the ground, along with several other demonstrators.

The moment of drama was captured by a film crew from the UPITN television news agency, which had been asked to cover the demonstration on

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Tragic victim: WPC Yvonne Fletcher, aged 25, who died after being hit by machine-gun bullets.

Pint-size girl who fulfilled a dream

By Barbara Day

Woman Police Constable Yvonne Fletcher had wanted to be a policewoman from the time she was three years old, her mother, Mrs Queenie Fletcher, told a press conference at Scotland Yard yesterday. But Yvonne, at only 5ft 2½in, was too short for the force. Though turned down by the police several times, she was determined not to give up her efforts.

Her senior officer at Bow Street station, Chief Superintendent Bryan West, said that because of her determination, drive, intelligence and suitability, an exception was made to allow her to join the force despite a normal height requirement of 5ft 4in.

"All I know is that she was probably the smallest policewoman in the country, he said. Yvonne, aged 25, was on duty with her fiancé, PC

Michael Liddle, also stationed at Bow Street, for the demonstration. PC Liddle said Yvonne shot. A doctor's son from Norfolk, he joined the police in 1980. The couple were officially engaged.

Sitting with her husband and Yvonne's 22-year-old sister Heather, a nurse at Charing Cross Hospital, Mrs Fletcher paid a quiet tribute to her daughter's courage and determination. She described Yvonne, the eldest of four daughters, as a very happy girl.

"All I know is that she wanted to be a policewoman from the time she was three years old. She never wanted to do anything else and that was just her life. She loved it at Bow Street station. It was her second home. She just wanted

Continued on page 3, col 1

Ford profits dip after sales record

Ford car sales in Britain set a record last year, but pretax profits of £178m went down £16m on 1982.

Ford profits were further affected by a £245m special provision for Budget tax changes and closure costs.

Car sales rose 43,856 to 518,048 but Mr Sam Toy, the chairman and chief executive, said production and manning

levels were still short of continental standards.

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Chess victory

Niaz Murshed of Bangladesh won first prize with a score of seven points in the Young Masters International Chess Tournament at Oakham after agreeing a draw in a final round game against Igor Stohl of Czechoslovakia.

Law review call

Solicitors and editors are asking for the Contempt of Court Act, 1981, to be reviewed as they fear that judges are using it wrongly. Page 4

Rebel ambush

Salvadorean guerrillas killed 37 Government soldiers in an ambush on the Pan-American Highway. Such a successful attack on a military convoy may affect troop morale before the run-off presidential election on May 6. Page 6

Health cash plea

Health experts want the Government to spend £60m tackling heart disease. They say 40,000 lives could be saved every year. Page 4

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LIBYAN SIEGE

Violence back in fashion

Riddle of the London Four

Offensive against exiles

Signs of tougher Gaddafi line on dissidents began over a year ago

By Andrew Lyett

The British authorities had ample warning that radicalism, and with it the threat of "revolutionary violence" against anti-Gaddafi dissidents, was back in fashion in Libya.

Libya has been fairly quiet in pursuing its enemies in the four years since the murder of prominent opposition figures abroad in 1980. Over the past couple of years, the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, has been more concerned to cope with the effects of cuts in oil prices and production, which more than halved Libya's income from \$20 billion (£14 billion) to \$8 billion.

But in February last year the General People's Congress, the nearest thing to a parliament in Libya, returned to the offensive.

Moderates thrown out of Cabinet

issuing a warning that "every citizen is responsible for the liquidation of the enemies of the people and the revolution," and threatening states which "shelter and assist" exiles considered hostile to the revolution.

Towards the end of last year, the Libyan press began a campaign against the bourgeois habits of some of the country's People's Bureaux (or embassies). It accused diplomats of misusing their positions and of amassing money belonging to the Libyan public. The People's Bureau in London was singled out on this score.

In February this year the annual General People's Congress met again. This time Colonel Gaddafi reshuffled his Cabinet, throwing out the moderate Prime Minister, Mr Jeddah Tahli, and the equally pragmatic Foreign Minister, Mr Abdel Ati at-Obaidi, who was

educated at Manchester University. The Libyan leader also introduced a new figure into his Cabinet, with a rank not known in many countries - Minister for External Security. What this minister, Colonel Yusif Bilagazim, is supposed to do was not spelt out.

But the general emphasis was clear from his four assistants, all associated with revolutionary violence abroad - Ahmed Gaddafadam, Colonel Gaddafi's cousin and main fixer of international problems; Sayed Rashid, who was arrested last year in France for terrorist activities and was about to be extradited to Italy when he was returned to Libya in strange circumstances; and Musa Kusa, former head of the Libyan People's Bureau in London, who was asked to leave by the British Government after a spate of killings of Libyans in Britain in 1980.

The General People's Congress was accompanied by the sacking of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli, a premeditated action which led to the rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries and further emphasized Libya's generally poor relations at present with the rest of the Arab world.

After some moderate success in backing the opponents of Mr Yasser Arafat among the Palestinians, Colonel Gaddafi has had no luck furthering his diplomacy in Lebanon. The Shia Muslims, who have come to prominence there recently, dislike him heartily because they accuse him of abducting and murdering their spiritual leader, the Imam Musa Dadr, five years ago.

At the General People's Congress, Colonel Gaddafi clearly fed up with gossip on these lines, spoke for the first time on the death of the Imam.

Mystery men at the London 'bureau'

Britain puts embassies on alert

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain's embassies overseas were on alert last night as diplomatic relations with Libya sank to a new low as a result of the shooting in St James's Square.

Particular concern was felt for the mission in Tripoli where the ambassador, Mr Oliver Miles was in constant touch with the Foreign Liaison Bureau, which is Colonel Gaddafi's name for his ministry of foreign affairs.

But relations between the two capitals have been strained and uncertain since February 18 when a group of men calling themselves the Libyan Revolutionary Students Force marched upon the embassy, or People's Bureau, on a quiet Saturday in elegant St James's Square, and seized control.

Two days later the authorities in Tripoli confirmed to Mr Miles that Mr Adem Kuwiri was no longer the charge d'affaires in London, but refused to say who had taken his place.

A week later the students held a press conference at which they threatened to break off relations with Britain unless the Thatcher government changed its policies in the Middle East and in Libya in particular.

Since then the normal routine business of an embassy has continued as before, with trained Libyan diplomats continuing their work. But the Libyans have pointedly failed to identify the four-man students' committee which has technically been in charge of the bureau, leaving the Foreign Office without any charge d'affaires to deal with. Of Mr Kuwiri's present whereabouts there was no word last night.

In early March Scotland Yard and the Foreign Office together warned any dissidents among the 7,000 or so Libyans living in Britain to be on their guard. A series of bomb outrages a week later then led to a strong warning from the Foreign Office that relations between the two countries could

be badly damaged unless Colonel Gaddafi gave assurances that he would do all he could to stop fighting between groups of Libyan expatriates in Britain.

Mr Miles was believed yesterday to be pressing for permission for British police to enter the St James's Square building.

As an officially recognized diplomatic mission the bureau is covered by Article 22 of the 1949 Vienna Convention which expressly states that "the premises of a mission shall be inviolable" and "cannot be entered by the agents of the host country "except with the consent of the head of the mission".

As their names have never been notified officially to the Foreign Office, the students are not recognized as diplomats enjoying the usual privilege of diplomatic immunity - unlike the 24 other names in the latest London Diplomatic List as being at the mission.

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From David Felton
Labour Correspondent
Aberdeen

Miners yesterday won the first phase of the drive to turn the pit strike into a wider confrontation with the Government when leaders of almost a million Scottish trade unionists pledged to stage a 24 hour unlawful stoppage, probably on May day.

The call for a one-day strike and an appeal for financial help for the miners were agreed unanimously at the Scottish TUC in Aberdeen.

In an emotional debate watched by about 300 striking miners in the public gallery speaker after speaker characterized the dispute as a battle with the Government which the miners and the rest of the trade union movement could not afford to lose.

If the miners lose the strike it will be the last strike we would fight for decades to come," Mr Jim Slater, general secretary of the National Union of Miners, said.

The tone was set by Mr Michael McGahey, vice president of the National Union of Mineworkers, who told

eges: "We are fighting for this country we will not be bought off by your filthy money. We will keep our jobs and our dignity."

Many speakers said that the one-day strike should be as wide as possible although a hint of difficulties lying ahead came from Mr Alex Kison, deputy general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. "We will leave it to our members' conscience and they have never been found wanting in the past," he said.

A letter of intent signed in Amsterdam yesterday by Mr Geoffrey Patti, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, and Mr Jan van Houwelingen, his Dutch opposite number, holds out the possibility of the two countries supplying each other with more Goalkeeper systems and Spey engines.

But Mr Patti has ambitions beyond that. He hopes to persuade the Dutch to buy another British weapon, the vertical-launched Sea Wolf missile, which will travel at more than twice the speed of sound to attack aircraft and missiles at a range of about five kilometres.

He is hoping that the Dutch will be persuaded to favour this weapon over the American vertical-launched Sea Sparrow system, which has a greater range but is slower and which, until now, the Dutch navy is thought to have favoured.

Lawyers for Richard Read Transport, of Longhope, in the

Forest of Dean, and George M. Read Transport, of Micheldean, were granted the order.

In addition to the injunction, the companies are both seeking damages against the National Union of Mineworkers.

Deputy Judge Sir Douglas Frank QC, granted two haulage companies in Gloucestershire, an injunction forbidding pickets from "stopping, approaching or in any other way interfering" with the companies' lorries.

Lawyers for Richard Read

Transport, of Longhope, in the

High Court judge in London yesterday banned South Wales miners' pickets from stopping coke lorries entering or leaving Port Talbot steelworks.

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Richard Read would benefit as passengers won by domestic airline in recent years came back.

The tax is one of several possible steps in a government

consultation paper to be published shortly on how to keep Heathrow flights within an annual limit of 275,000, due to come into effect when the new £200m Terminal Four opens.

Others include restrictions on places such as Glasgow, Belfast and Manchester by about a quarter and would bring protests from British Midland Airways and British Airways whose "Super Shuttle" would be seriously affected.

British Rail would benefit as passengers won by domestic airline in recent years came back.

The tax is one of several possible steps in a government

plan to help other people to help themselves. It was

superintendent, who had to deal with what had happened to the police service.

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Henry Teffer Ltd departed from Sainsbury's specification.

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● Brittan's outrage

● Blood ran on a sunny day

● Policewoman shot down

LIBYAN SIEGE



Death on duty: Police colleagues rushing to the aid of policewoman, Yvonne Fletcher shortly after the shooting in St James's Square

Eyewitnesses describe burst of gunfire that cleared square

By Jenny Knight

Eyewitnesses who heard the burst of gunfire and saw wounded people drop to the ground later described the scene.

Television advertising film maker Mr Ray Barker, aged 46, said: "I was watching the demonstrations from the third floor window of an office block in St James' Square, about 50 feet away from the students. The police had prepared for the demonstration very carefully. That end of the square had been cleared. Cars had been moved and they had erected crash barriers along the pavement.

"At about 10 o'clock the students arrived. They wore scarves and head dresses in the Arabic style. They carried banners proclaiming 'Gaddafi hangs students'. They were shepherded on the pavement - between the railings of the park and barriers on the pavement opposite the embassy. On the other side of the road was a counter demonstration by what I took to be pro-Gaddafi supporters. It was very small - perhaps a dozen people.

"After about five minutes there was a sudden burst of gunfire - it went on for nearly 10 seconds. I assumed it came from the road because the embassy's windows are barred and shattered, with heavy grills covering plate glass. It all happened very quickly.

"I saw the policewoman fall and several of the students behind her fall as well. Within seconds her white shirt turned to red with blood. I saw her little cap lying in the road. It was a pathetic sight. There was a splattering of blood a few yards away.

"Some policemen vaulted the barriers to run to her aid, and

were running to take up positions covering the building and pointing pistols. The scene there was just like a battlefield with dressings covering the pavement and two ambulances trying desperately to get out through the crowds. The officers carried the woman police constable to nearby Charles II Street to await an ambulance. She looked in a grave way, ashen white, with her eyes

"I could not believe this was in London - it was unreal"

"Reinforcements were on the scene within minutes. The police did not fire a single shot. All this that happened in front of my eyes is still difficult to comprehend. On a sunny day it was pure madness. It was just an insignificant little demonstration."

Mr Brian Cartmell, a journalist, said: "I arrived with my son Gary, aged 21, to attend a meeting in the square. As I paid the cab driver off I could see two groups of foreign students or demonstrators, some wearing masks. A ring of police had two of the factions surrounded. As I walked towards a sergeant and a policeman to ask if I could have permission to walk through the square, what seemed like a fire crackled exploded in the left-hand side of the square. I saw the bullets hit the pavement and realised it was small arms fire.

"The police woman, 15 feet in front of me, crumpled to the floor clutching her lower stomach and groin, and rolled onto her right-hand side with a

look of total surprise on her pretty face. The policewoman's hat rolled slowly into the gutter while three or four officers shouting 'My God' ran past me to her assistance. Another officer pulled me to the side of the pavement.

"The Arab demonstrators on my left seemed to recognise the small arms fire very quickly and fled from the square. English bystanders did not react as quickly - until a police officer ran towards them shouting: 'That's a real live machine gun with real live bullets. Get to hell out of the square, and do it now.'

"The whole square seemed to explode at that time with running people and we fled dodging behind cars."

Advertising executive Mr Dave Robson, who was in a nearby office, helped care for a shocked policeman after the incident.

He said: "He seemed terribly upset. I don't think he was injured, just shocked. We offered him a drink and put him in our boardroom. Then a detective came in and helped to take him to an ambulance."

Miss Joan Bailey, an Edgware librarian, saw the shooting from the top floor of the London Library building overlooking the square while she was taking a break.

She said: "There had been a terrific police presence since early in the morning, and there was a line of police keeping the demonstrators away from the embassy. Then there was a very loud noise which at first I thought was fireworks.

"Then I realised it was gunfire as I saw a policewoman go down. Police came rushing to

her, helmets flying. One minute the square was full of people and police and the next everyone had melted away into doorways and out of the square. I could not believe this was happening in London. It seemed unreal."

Mr Richard Bowden, a salesman, aged 31 from Aldershot, was on his way to his office, two doors from the embassy. "The demonstrators were chanting 'Gaddafi kills students' in Arabic - I speak the language. Suddenly there was a bang like fireworks going off and people were on the ground covered in blood. I saw the WPC fall with a shot through the stomach."

He ducked into his office and moments later a demonstrator with a gunshot wound in his chest was helped into the building.

"Within seconds her white shirt turned to red with blood"

Bricklayer, Mr Dean Bowden was coming out of a cafe opposite the embassy. "I noticed a window on the second floor being opened and then there was a quick burst of gunfire. Everyone in the demonstration dropped to the ground. They were all wearing balaclavas. Some were hit and they were dragged off by their friends."

Miss Jennifer Bowman, aged 26, who works for our advertising agency in the square, said: "The shots came from an upper window of the bureau. Someone stuck a submachine gun out and sprayed it into the crowd. It was quite a short burst."

WPC died after one hour's surgery

By Sheila Beardall

A spokesman at Westminster Hospital said WPC Yvonne Fletcher died at about midday of gunshot wounds to the stomach after surgery lasting an hour.

She was visited by her boyfriend, also a police officer, but no relatives were at her bedside.

One demonstrator was discharged with a minor leg injury. He left the hospital with his yellow anorak pulled over his head and was escorted by a policeman and quickly driven away.

All the remaining demonstrators in the hospital underwent surgery. Five had serious injuries, and one was still in intensive care last night. Four received minor injuries but were being detained in hospital overnight.

Police have been questioning some of the injured. Mr Julian Netzel, the administrator, said the hospital, which had dealt with the injured from the Harrods bombing, had coped well with the emergency. However extra blood supplies and dressings had had to be brought in.



The victim's family: Mr Tim Fletcher, his wife Queenie, and daughter Heather.

Girl whose dream came true

Continued from page 1 to serve the community and help other people. "If anything ever happened to her, she would say it was just her work."

Superintendent West, is a voice faltering with emotion, read out a prepared statement about what he called the most devastating day he had ever had to face in his 28 years in the police service.

He said: "Yvonne was stationed for all her seven years in the police service at Bow Street, which is one of the most demanding areas for police work in the whole country. She was one of my most experienced constables."

"She was an officer who could turn her hand to any kind of police work. She was a fully trained and mature professional police officer, the kind who make up the backbone of the service. Anyone would have been proud to have her as a member of a team."

"She did her job willingly and with a high degree of professionalism. Policing at Semley, near Shaftesbury, Dorset, who recalled her as a tomboy whose heart had always been set on a police career. She attended the village school, then went on to Gillingham Comprehensive, where she excelled at sports, especially judo and karate.



A policeman tending to an injured, hooded demonstrator in St James's Square

Phone link to Libyans as SAS stands by

Continued from page 1

behalf of a number of Arab television stations. Viewers to lunchtime news bulletins in Britain saw WPC Fletcher fall to the ground, pale and writhing in agony.

WPC Fletcher and the other wounded were immediately dragged from the crowd, and taken to safety round the corner out of the line of fire. All were taken to Westminster Hospital, where roads were cleared to give free access to the approaching convoy of ambulances. Last night nine of the wounded were still in hospital, and five were reported in serious condition.

Immediately after the shooting police cars and ambulances raced across London to the scene, seriously disrupting traffic, and a police helicopter hovered over the scene. The building was surrounded by armed officers, and police cleared the immediate areas, evacuating office workers from adjoining buildings. People in a bank next to the bureau were got out by being taken to a fire escape, out of sight of the bureau.

The first armed officers on the scene were members of the 300-member Diplomatic Patrol Group, whose red cars and vans could be seen in the square blocking the road, or offering cover for men armed with hand guns. By mid-afternoon, several dozen other officers were on roofs looking down on the bureau, their revolvers propped up at arms' length, ready to fire.

Many officers wore flak jackets, and gathered round the bureau, their guns holstered by their sides. Members of D-11, Scotland Yard's firearms training department which also provides marksmen, arrived from their base in Essex in an unmarked van. They were later seen on roofs watching the scene.

Minutes after the shooting a single figure, middle aged and wearing an anorak, was seen to emerge from the door of the bureau. On instructions from the police loudhailer, he raised his arms, and was led away.

Specialist listening equipment and cameras were placed pointing towards the bureau by a number of technicians, who earlier this week were on duty for the trial of Michael Batteney at the Central Criminal Court, checking for microphones or other attempts to eavesdrop the secret trial. Technicians work for Special Branch or MI5, whose officers were on the scene.

By mid-afternoon police, following established tactics for dealing with a siege, had established a telephone line into the bureau, but would not say whom they had spoken to, or the nature of the discussions.

Later in the day *The Times* telephoned the building, and were answered by a man who confirmed that it was the bureau, but would not identify himself and would not identify himself and would give no further details.

In Apple Tree Yard, at the rear of the bureau, a police officer had been thrown over the Libyan's own close-circuit security television system, and officers were on guard, including one crouching with a sub-machine gun.

By that stage almost every building in the vicinity had been evacuated, although some members of St James's clubs were still being allowed into their premises. Diners to the Travellers' and the Reform clubs had to make a detour through Carlton Gardens, because Pall Mall was closed.

Some months ago the bureau was the centre of an internal dispute, in which a group of Libyans was ousted from the premises by another group, promising fresh revolutionary fervour.

In the past few weeks, after a series of bombings, a number of Libyans were expelled from Britain, and a Libyan was charged with related offences.

Brittan acts after 'outrage'

Continued from page 1

dealing with this matter", Mr Brittan said.

"We do not know exactly who is there. We know that a certain number of people who do normally work there have diplomatic status. We also know that there may very well be other people in that building who do not have diplomatic status."

Mrs Thatcher, who was informed of the incident in flight, said in *Independent Television News* interview from Lisbon: "I am gravely concerned about the death of the young woman police constable. I want to express my sympathy to her family and also to express appreciation at her bravery and the bravery of those who served with her."

"We are deeply concerned about the injuries which are being caused."

Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats and a former Foreign Secretary, said in a BBC radio interview: "Obviously, we cannot allow the streets to London to become a terrorist battleground."

"We know, however, that we are dealing with an extraordinarily temperamental leader in Gaddafi, we are dealing with the most volatile and unstable government."

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Leader, sent his condolences to the family of the dead policewoman (the Press Association reports).

He said: "The people of London and Britain will join with us in condemning this shocking act of violence and in calling on the Prime Minister to tell the Libyan government in the firmest terms that our country is not to be regarded as a battleground for anybody's factions."

£60m programme urged to save 40,000 heart victims a year

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Forty thousand heart disease deaths a year could be prevented, a group of health experts say. They urged the Government yesterday to spend £60m on a series of measures.

They want changes in the nation's diet, better food in schools and workplaces, no cigarette advertising and improved food labelling.

Coronary heart disease claims more than 150,000 Britons each year, a death every three or four minutes. The total could be reduced by 40,000 in ten years, Professor Geoffrey Rose said on behalf of the committee which compiled the *Plans for Action* report published yesterday.

The report summarizes the findings of a conference of health professionals in Canterbury last September. Their work was sponsored by the British Cardiac Society, the Coronary Prevention Group, the Department of Health and Social Security, and the Health Education Council.

The group recommends a

national policy for the prevention of heart disease, with both the Department of Health and the National Health Service tackling prevention as "a major priority". In a five-year programme, £1.2m would be needed each year.

Family doctors and other health workers such as nurses, dentists, and dieticians, should accept "their important responsibilities" especially over smoking, obesity, diet and high blood pressure.

Professor Michael Oliver,

president of the British Cardiac Society, said doctors should break free from a "narrow professionalism" and do more for health education. "The medical profession has to re-examine its responsibilities towards prevention", he said.

The Ministry of Agriculture should oppose elements of the common agricultural policy which run counter to a healthy food policy, the report says.

These include the European Community's proposals to raise the prescribed fat content of

milk. The present consumer subsidy on butter should be removed, to make butter dearer in shops, and the EEC should stop buying skinned milk under its intervention programme.

"At least 75 per cent of food is processed or manufactured before it reaches the consumer", the report says. "If the Ministry of Agriculture can work effectively with the food processing industry it can profoundly affect most of the food entering consumption."

Food labelling "should be improved as a matter of urgency with, for example, a 'traffic light' system showing high, medium or low fat in brands of sausages."

Description and labelling of foods must be informative enough to allow the consumer to select intelligently", the report says. A change in grading standards for meat carcasses is also recommended.

The report also calls for higher tobacco tax, a ban on all cigarette advertising.

Policy 'may halve bus services'

By Michael Baily Transport Editor

Nearly half Britain's town and country buses could disappear if the Government pursues a "free market" policy in the provision of local bus services, a new study from Leeds University and the National Bus Company said yesterday.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, has promised a policy statement later in the spring which is expected to propose widespread deregulation and competition in an industry which is still extensively regulated, ostensibly in the public interest.

Evening and weekend services would be particularly vulnerable under such a policy.

Cross-subsidies have tra-

ditionally been regarded as valuable in maintaining comprehensive networks and timetables but are coming under increasing attack from the Government's "market" approach.

A free-for-all in the bus industry would allow newcomers to enter profitable new routes at lower fares and force established operators to cut cross-subsidies to compete.

Cross Subsidies in Urban Bus Operations, National Bus Company and Institute for Transport Studies, Leeds University. (Public Affairs department, NBC, 172 Buckingham Palace Road, London E1).

Princess Alexandra, who presented the television and radio awards, Frank Bough, newscaster presenter of the year (centre) and Michael Aspel, who won the personality award (Photographs: Suresh Karadia)

BBC scoops awards

Terry Wogan and Michael Aspel were named television personalities of the year when the Television and Radio Industries Club presented its annual awards in London yesterday.

Frank Bough, David Coleman and John Dunn were also among the winners, helping the BBC to take eight of the 13 radio and television awards.

Mr Wogan was named BBC personality for his chat show and *Blankety-Blank*. While Mr Aspel won the independent personality award for his series, *Only Fools and Horses*.

Reilly, Ace Of Spies had the best theme music, according to the club.

Scientist criticizes Intoximeter review

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Exeter

An expert analytical chemist, who also describes himself as the Don Quixote among forensic scientists, yesterday levelled serious charges about the way technical evidence is presented in court when he addressed the annual congress of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Mr Henry Bland, a Home Office expert for 18 years who is now a private consultant for defendants, condemned among other things the way the new Intoximeter breath testing machine was introduced by the Government.

Mr Bland said the introduction of the new machine did not go far enough. Every case in which it was used should be accompanied automatically over the next six months by a blood or urine analysis. That should be conducted under the scrutiny of an independent and publicly accountable professional body such as the Royal Society of Chemistry. The results over the period should be published.

Mr Bland said the introduction of the breath test using instruments which measured the difference in infra-red absorption between a sample of air and breath provoked public concern because those instruments had not been fully evaluated in the eyes of the public.

The first referred to the fact that all volatile compounds in the breath, including vinegar on your chips, were measured with the alcohol. Mr Bland said that calibration was not altogether satisfactory. There had been recent reports that the individual who calibrated machines was unhappy because after the test when a machine broke down it was repaired, but not always recalibrated, although it carried a certificate.

On accuracy, he said if there was any trace of alcohol in the mouth a high reading might be obtained. Tests had shown that alcohol in the mouth was dispersed in under 10 minutes in all test cases, however hiccuping could reinroduce alcohol back into the mouth. Under those circumstances, the tests were subject to uncontrollable inaccuracies.

Other difficulties in forensic science arose when opinions were given on limited or insufficient knowledge, Mr Bland said.

Foot police 'do not cut crime'

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Putting more policemen back on the beat - the conventional wisdom of recent years - does little to reduce crime, according to a Home Office study.

The study says that a policeman patrolling on foot in London could expect to pass within a hundred yards of a burglary only once every eight years. Interviews with burglars and other criminals suggest they do not think more foot patrolling increases their chances of detection.

More policemen, it has found, make the public feel safer but do not seem to lead to any reductions in crime.

According to Dr Ronald Clarke and Mr Mike Hough, who are civil servants and authors of the study *Crime and Police Effectiveness*, the best way of cutting crime rates is to try to reduce opportunities - for example by controlling alcohol at football matches, marking personal property, installing caretakers in flats, closed circuit television surveillance and other "situational" measures.

Crime and Police Effectiveness by Ronald Clarke and Mike Hough (Stationery Office, £3.40).

Editor's dismissal was unfair

Lady Waller, the newspaper editor who was dismissed after taking an unofficial day off, was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal ruled in Norwich yesterday.

The tribunal said, however, that Lady Waller, former editor of the *Waveney District Advertiser* based at Lowestoft, Suffolk, contributed "to a large extent to her own dismissal".

Because of her "blameworthy behaviour" the tribunal concluded it would not be right to order Lady Waller, aged 40, to be reinstated and any compensation award should be reduced by 75 per cent. The two sides have been given six weeks to agree on a remedy, failing which a settlement will be made at another hearing.

During the original five-day hearing it was claimed that Lady Waller, of Leman Road, Gorleston, Norfolk, the former wife of the poet, Sir John Waller, had been the worse for drink at editorial conferences and was often difficult to locate after lunch.

The tribunal ruled that while some of her behaviour had been blameworthy the company had acted "unreasonably in treating her conduct as a sufficient reason for dismissing her".

Its highest offer of 88p a share is favoured by other directors, including another member of the Theakston family, Mr Michael Theakston.

The judge dismissed the action and now the takeover battle resumes.

Contempt Act protest by lawyers and editors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society and the Guild of British Newspaper Editors have asked the Lord Chancellor for an "urgent and thorough" overhaul of the working of the Contempt of Court Act, 1981.

They say they are "increasingly concerned" about the way judges use powers under the Act to postpone press reports of trials.

They are "dismayed" that since the Act came into force, 80 such orders have been made at the Central Criminal Court alone. The number of orders outside London is not known but the "impression is that they are by no means infrequent".

In a letter to the Lord Chancellor, Mr Mark Barrington-Ward, chairman of the two organizations' joint committee, and Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, vice-chairman, say the Act seems to have changed the courts' attitude to their powers.

Previously the power was used mostly with restraint and to an extent regarded as acceptable.

Since then this restraint seems to have been abandoned", they say.

Mr Carter-Ruck, a leading libel lawyer, said: "You can get a case where a man is convicted of rape, and because a second rape charge is pending, publication of the man's name is stopped.

Then he is acquitted on the second charge but the first case is by then stale news and the public may hear only that he has been acquitted."

This initiative coincides with a High Court test case on the banning powers being brought by the National Union of Journalists with the backing of the National Council for Civil Liberties today.

The union is seeking leave to apply for a judicial review of a Central Criminal Court case in which a judge stopped publication of a witness's name on the ground that she had been a heroin addict and publicity would affect her fragile condition.

New turn in battle for brewery

The battle for control for Thakston's, the Yorkshire brewery known for its high strength Old Peculier beer, took a new turn in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Justice Hartman ruled that Mr Paul Theakston, the brewery chairman, was not bound by any agreement to sell his two million shares to the Blackburn-based brewery group, Matthew Brown and Company.

Mr Theakston is backing a takeover bid by Matthew Brown, which has offered 75p a share, and he is accused of breach of company rules by entering into an agreement with the company.

The judge said he had done nothing wrong because the agreement did not bind him to sell his shares.

The court action was backed by William Grant and Sons, the family company famed for its Glenfiddich whisky which is making a rival bid.

Its highest offer of 88p a share is favoured by other directors, including another member of the Theakston family, Mr Michael Theakston.

The judge dismissed the action and now the takeover battle resumes.

PC shot after £24,000 bank robbery

A policeman was shot and wounded when he tried to stop two robbers outside the National Westminster Bank in Golders Green Lane, north London, yesterday morning.

Police Constable Howard Johnson, aged 23, was taken to hospital with a gunshot wound and a broken leg.

The two robbers, armed with handguns, had snatched £24,000 being delivered by security men when PC Johnson and a colleague saw them. There was a struggle, during which PC Johnson was shot, and the robbers escaped.

They forced a woman out of an Audi car and hijacked it, then switched to a Capri, which they abandoned later.

One of the raiders was wearing a blue crash helmet.

Aircraft debris misses people by inches

Houses and cars were damaged and people ran for cover yesterday as pieces from what was believed to be a Boeing aircraft fell on an area of Berkshire.

Mr John Hodder, of Hurst, near Wokingham, said he and his son James, aged 13, missed death by inches when chunks of aluminium metal fell from the skies around them.

One piece landed on the roof of his house, making a 3ft hole. Other bits landed on cars and gardens nearby.

A spokesman for the British Airports Authority at Heathrow said that a Pan American jumbo jet took off from Heathrow at lunchtime and

returned shortly after, with one engine shut down.

He would not comment on the cause of the fault or if the debris in Berkshire was connected with the plane. He also refused to confirm or deny reports that a jumbo aircraft had landed at the airport minus an engine cowling. Investigations into the incident were underway, he said.

Mr Hodder said: "I was working outside just after midday when I heard a terrific crashing noise. I looked up and saw dozens of pieces of metal falling down. Suddenly there was another crash and a piece slammed onto my roof."

"It made a big hole and then tumbled onto the ground. It was

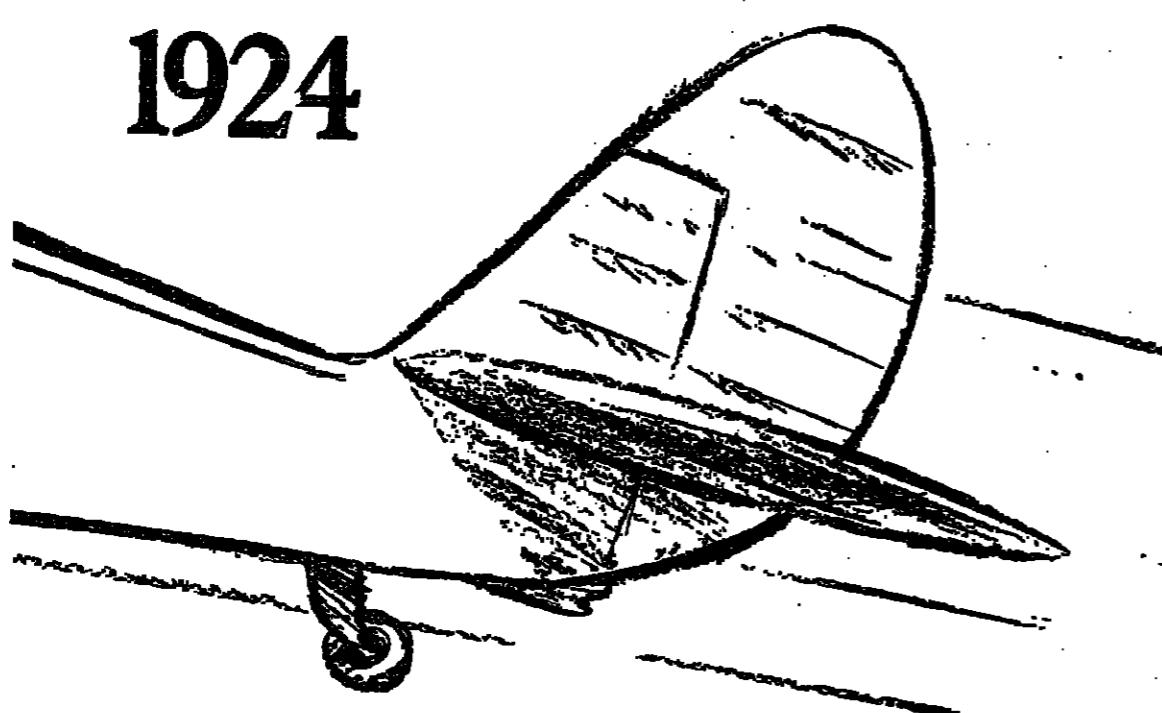


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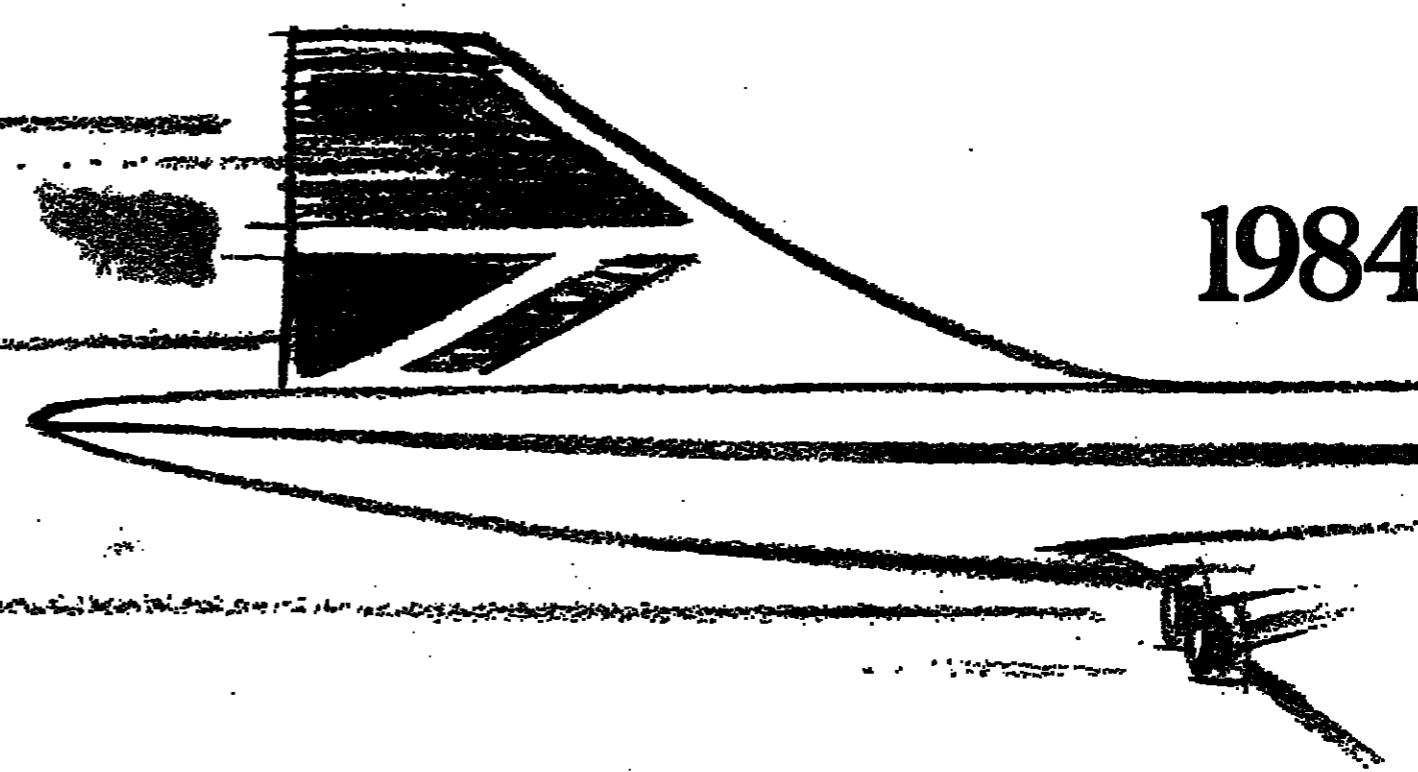
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Duties of pension fund trustees

In re Mineworkers' Pension Scheme Trusts
Cowan and Others v Scargill and Others
Before Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor
Judgment delivered April 13

In proceedings by the five trustees appointed by the National Coal Board against the five trustees appointed by the National Union of Mineworkers, all members of the committee of management of the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme, the Vice-Chancellor held that the defendant trustees would be acting in breach of their fiduciary duties as members of the committee and as trustees of its money and investments if they refused to concur in the adoption of an investment strategy and business plan which had been initially presented to a meeting of the committee on June 9, 1982.

The defendants had refused to accept the plan unless it was amended so that there would be no increase in the percentage of overseas investments that miners' investments already made were withdrawn at an optimum time, and unless the committee adopted a proposal within the plan of not investing in energies which were in direct competition with coal, but the Vice-Chancellor said he would make declarations to the effect that the investment strategy and business plan of 1982 as initially put to the committee should be adopted by the miners' trustees and that it should be implemented.

Mr Samuel Stansler, QC and Mr Patrick Howell for the NCB trustees; Mr Arthur Scargill in person.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said the main issue was whether the defendants had been in breach of their fiduciary duty in refusing to approve a plan for the investment of the funds of the pension scheme without the prohibitions they wanted on overseas investments and in energies in direct competition with coal. The scheme covered all industrial employees of the National Coal Board and there was a parallel scheme for the board's non-industrial staff called the NCB Staff Superannuation Scheme.

The two schemes worked together in various ways: there was a joint investment subcommittee composed of representatives of the committees of each of the schemes which dealt with the detail of the investment of the funds of the two schemes.

The funds of each scheme were very large, each being worth something in the region of £3,000m.

With some £200m being available for investment each year.

There was an advisory panel of investment experts to assist the joint investment subcommittee, and the coal board's director-general of investments, who was secretary of the subcommittee, headed a large staff which carried out most of the work of managing the funds.

The powers of investment were very wide and there were wide provisions for appointing agents and for delegation.

The scheme was fully funded, members of the pension scheme and the board making basic contributions of about the same total amount but the board also made deficiency payments to accord with actuarial valuations. In addition, the board had been making further voluntary contributions so that pensions kept place with inflation.

The net result was that something of the order of two-thirds of the payments came from the board and one-third from the members.

The law on the duties of trustees was that they should exercise their powers in the best interests of the present and future beneficiaries of the trust, holding the scales impartially between different classes of beneficiaries.

First, the duty towards beneficiaries was paramount. They had of course to obey the law, but subject to that, they had to put the interests of their beneficiaries first, and when the purpose was to be financial benefits for beneficiaries, as was usually the case, their best interests were impartially between different classes of beneficiaries.

A power of investment, as in the present case, had to be exercised so as to yield the best return for the beneficiaries, judged in relation to the risk of the investment, the yield of income and capital appreciation both had to be considered in judging the return of a prudent man would act.

So, although a trustee taking advice was not bound to act on it, he was not entitled to reject it merely because he sincerely disagreed with it, unless in addition to being sincere he was acting as an ordinary prudent man would act.

Third, the trustees had a duty to consider the need for diversification, to make sure that the investments they might object to in investment overseas or in oil and that there was in any case no need to increase overseas investment beyond the existing level.

However, even if in some cases, other funds had done better without overseas investment than in the present case, that did not begin to show that it was to the benefit of the pension fund to be short of the ability to invest overseas.

ments by reason of the views they held.

Third, by way of caveat, it should be said there was no assertion that the benefit of beneficiaries which had to be made a trustee's paramount concern is inevitably meant their financial benefit.

Thus, if the actual or potential beneficiaries were all adults with strict views on moral and social matters, condemning alcohol, tobacco and popular entertainment, as well as armaments, it could be well understood that it might not be for the 'benefit' of those beneficiaries to know that they were getting larger returns from investments in those activities if the trustees had put the funds in other investments.

Benefit was a word with a very wide meaning and there were circumstances where arrangements to the financial disadvantage of a beneficiary might yet be acceptable. However, the present was not that type of case.

Fourth, the standard required of a trustee in exercising his powers of investment was that he should take the care of an ordinary prudent man if he was making an investment for the benefit of other people for whom he felt morally bound to provide. And that duty included the duty to seek advice on matters he did not understand.

That requirement was not discharged merely by showing that the trustee had good faith and sincerity. Honesty and sincerity were not the same as prudence and reasonableness. Some of the most sincere people were the most unreasonable, and the first defendant had said that he had met quite a few of them.

So, although a trustee taking advice was not bound to act on it, he was not entitled to reject it merely because he sincerely disagreed with it, unless in addition to being sincere he was acting as an ordinary prudent man would act.

Fifth, the trustees had a duty to consider the need for diversification, to make sure that the investments they might object to in investment overseas or in oil and that there was in any case no need to increase overseas investment beyond the existing level.

However, even if in some cases, other funds had done better without overseas investment than in the present case, that did not begin to show that it was to the benefit of the pension fund to be short of the ability to invest overseas.

Sixth, there was a question whether the principles stated would apply with or without modification to trusts of pension funds.

There seemed no reason why different principles should apply to pension fund trusts from those applying to other trusts although there could be many provisions in pension schemes which were not to be found in private trusts, and to those the general law would be subordinated, but the large size of pension funds emphasized the need for diversification, rather than lessening it, and the fact that much of the fund had been contributed by members of the scheme made it even more important that the trustees should act in the best interests of beneficiaries.

There was no justification for holding that the benefits to be derived from the scheme were being lessened because trustees were pursuing an investment policy intended to assist the industry which pensioners had left, or to assist the union.

The court could see no escape from the conclusion that the defendant trustees were attempting to impose their prohibitions on certain investments in order to carry out union policy, and mere assertions that their sole consideration was for the benefit of the beneficiaries did not alter that conclusion.

No doubt some trustees with strong feelings found it irksome to be forced to submerge those feelings and genuinely put the interests of the beneficiaries first; indeed some were temperamentally unsuited to being trustees and were more fitted for campaigning for change in the law. But trustees' duties were not to do, but if they chose to do so, to accept that the rules of equity would bind them in all that they did as trustees.

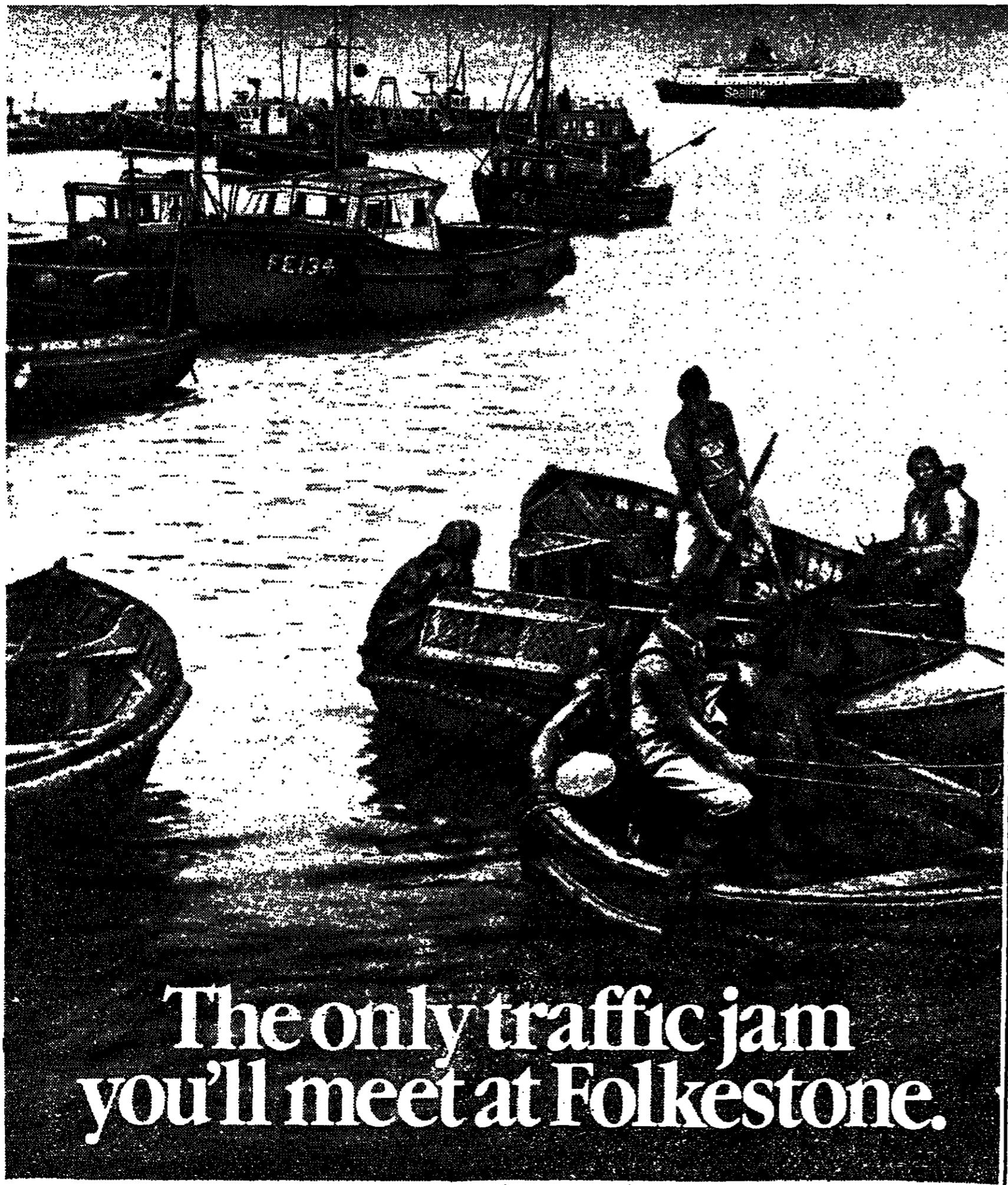
The court would be making suitable declarations to accord with its conclusions, and liberty would be given to the coal board trustees to apply for directions or other appropriate relief if the declarations were not duly acted upon. It was much to be hoped that there would be no need to consider the exercise of the court's inherent power to remove trustees.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Brian Thompson & Partners.

Correction

In *Rudgwick Clay Works Ltd v Baker and Another* (The Times, April 13) the solicitor for the plaintiff company was James Bruce & Co.

Solicitors: Durnford Ford, Hastings; D. F. Rawlings & Co, Bexhill-on-Sea.



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Calculating periodical payments of husband

Freeman v Swatridge

Before Lord Justice Dunn and Mr Justice Wood

Judgment delivered April 16

There was no rule of law when determining in matrimonial proceedings the amount of periodical payments that the husband's residual income should not be reduced below a 'subsistence level' of the amount he was receiving by way of supplementary benefit.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the husband's appeal against an order of periodical payments of £1 a week for his three children by his first marriage.

Mr Ian Albutt for the appellant; Mr Donald Lambie for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the first ground of appeal was that the circuit judge had indicated that the wife had to be a work which did not take into account the edges of the benefit in deciding whether the object was not permitted to make a value judgment; it was primarily, though not solely, a question of the intention of the artist.

When Mrs Merlet made the prototype garment, it was held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division in refusing Mme Merlet's claim for an injunction restraining Mothercare from infringing her copyright in a prototype of and a cutting plan for the 'Raincosy' baby's cape.

Mr Michael Fysh for Mme Merlet; Mr Robin Jacob, QC and Mr Jeremy Davies for Mothercare.

MR JUSTICE WALTON said that the Raincosy was a cape with a hood which did not take into account the edges of the benefit in deciding whether the object was not permitted to make a value judgment; it was primarily, though not solely, a question of the intention of the artist.

When creating the Raincosy, Mme Merlet did not have in mind the creation of a work of art in any shape or form. What she had in mind was the utilitarian consideration of creating a barrier between the assumed rigours of a Highland summer and the warmth of her own use. At that stage there was no commercial purpose in her mind. It was only later, when she decided to manufacture baby capes to sell that she made a cutting plan.

Mothercare had copied a Raincosy and produced their own 'Carrycape'. They had used the

Artistic work has to be seen as a thing in itself

Merlet and Another v Mothercare plc

Before Mr Justice Walton

Judgment delivered April 13

In order for an object to be a work of artistic craftsmanship within section 3(1)(c) of the Copyright Act 1956, it had to be viewed as a thing in itself.

A cutting plan could not be reproduced in three dimensions for the purposes of section 9(8) of the

(b) of the 1956 Act which read: 'The making of an object of any description which is in three dimensions shall not be taken as infringing the copyright in an artistic work in two dimensions, if the object would not appear to persons who are not experts in relation to objects of that description, to be a reproduction of the artistic work.'

In that they had to succeed for the simple reason that the artistic work, being no less and no more than a cutting plan, no garment in three dimensions could ever be or appear to be a reproduction of that plan in three dimensions. A cutting plan could not, at any rate in any normal case, be successfully reproduced in three dimensions, for its very essence was that it was intended to be reproduced in some shape or form on the top of a base of cloth in its or its equivalent two dimensions!

Section 9(8) neither allowed nor required one notionally to dissect the garment into its component parts. One had to look at the three-dimensional garment and ask: 'Does it appear to me to be a reproduction of the two-dimensional work, namely the cutting plan, in three dimensions?' To ask the question was to answer it; it is inevitably to be answered in the negative. It was quite different from *Solar Thomson Engineering Co Ltd v Barton* (1977) RPC 537 in which the Court of Appeal held that with a second drawing, drawn in the notional sense, should be treated as having a similarly sectioned piece to the three-dimensional object in his hand for the purposes of comparison.

Solicitors: Jonvyn-Hicks & Co; Coward Chance.

Residence policy for grants

In re Cheung

In re Pau

Regina v Hereford and Worcester County Council, Ex parte Novintan

Before Mr Justice Glidewell

Judgment delivered April 13

The policy of the Department of Education and Science, set out in a circular sent to local authorities to assist them when faced with reconsideration of what they should do in relation to students who had been refused education grants on the wrong grounds before the definition of 'ordinarily resident' in *R v Bawden* (1978) 1 AC 509 was a proper policy.

An application by a local authority within the limit as set out in that policy satisfied any requirement upon that authority to reconsider.

Mr Justice Glidewell so held in the Queen's Bench Division in refusing the applicants, Raymond Sui Wah Cheung and Eric Hoi Wai Pau, leave to move for judicial review of decisions taken by their respective local authorities in 1978 and 1983, but allowing the applicant, Ali Reza Novintan, who had already been granted leave to move by Mr Justice Webster on

the policy of the Department of Education was one which the authorities could lawfully adopt.

The local authorities were correct in their submissions that overturning the department's policy would be detrimental to good administration, and it was desirable to have certainty as regarded public expenditure. Furthermore, it was important that there should be fairness and certainty for all local authorities in deciding what and how far back to reconsider.

As to the applicants, Cheung and Pau, Herfordshire County Council and Section Metropolitan Borough Council, had considered, following letters from their solicitors, whether there were exceptional circumstances. There were, excepting circumstances for leave failed.

As to the applicant, Novintan, there was no evidence that the local authority had considered the question, or sought to be certain if there were exceptional circumstances. There was an unusual feature about his case which was capable of being an exceptional circumstance. The local authority's application to reconsider had already therefore failed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners; Mr W J Church, Hertford; Mr M Scott, Bootle; Mr J W Kenney, Worcester.

Liability under Building Regulations

Fuller v Nicholas

Where structural alterations were carried out by a contractor for the owner of a building which was a limited company, a director of that company would not necessarily be liable for failure to comply with the Building Regulations (S 176) No 1676.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Parker and Mr

Justice Forbes) so held on April 17 allowing the appeal of Eric Ernest Fuller against his conviction before Chatham Justices on March 24, 1982 for failure to comply with the 1976 Regulations.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that there was no provision in the enabling statute, the Public Health Act 1961, that a director was responsible if the Regulations were

not complied with. Parliament knew well how to make such provisions; see, for example, section 20 of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968.

LORD JUSTICE PARKER, agreeing said that nothing had been said to indicate that there were no circumstances in which a director of a company could be held liable for an offence under the Regulations.

Law Society results

Justice Forbes) so held on April 17

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SPECTRUM

"Why was it that the regime itself and the many outside observers failed to perceive the monstrous plant which the soil of Iran was shortly to release? Why did I, with all my experience of the region, fail to see what was about to happen under my eyes?" Sir Anthony Parsons

An Iranian lesson: the army is not enough

In the final extract from his frank forthcoming memoirs, Sir Anthony reflects on his mistakes and answers his critics

The Iranian revolution was an event which compared in magnitude to the French or Russian revolutions. It was no routine change of regime in a Third World country, the replacement of King X by General Y through the agency of a military coup d'état - the substitute for the ballot box in so many states - or the fall of an individual dictator leaving the nature of the state intact. The Iranian revolution encompassed the total collapse of an apparently powerful, centralized autocracy founded on and backed by a united and loyal military force and the emergence from its ruins of a completely different Iran in virtually all respects.

Why was it that the regime itself and the many outside observers such as foreign diplomats, Western academics, the press, and even the opponents themselves of the Shah's regime, failed to perceive - in the years before the incident at Qom, indeed up to the late summer or early autumn of 1978 - the monstrous plant which the soil of Iran was shortly to release? Why did I, with all my experience of the region, fail to see what was about to happen under my eyes?

A conventional wisdom has grown up since 1979 that the Western embassies were taken by surprise because of inadequate information. We had, so the argument runs, concentrated too exclusively on commercial work during the boom years and had neglected sufficiently to scrutinize the Iranian political scene. By the same token we had been so anxious not to offend the Shah that we had eschewed contact with the opposition and had thus fallen victim to the very complacency that blinded the regime.

We were under no illusions about the popularity of the regime, and recognized that by 1976 the pangs which were inevitably accompanying the transformation of Iranian society, combined with the disappointment of expectations attendant on the collapse of the oil boom, had created a serious and widespread malaise. Where we went wrong was that we did not anticipate that the various rivulets of opposition, each of which had a different reason for resenting the Shah's rule, would combine into a mighty stream of protest which would eventually sweep the Shah away. And, even if we had foreseen this combination, we would probably have



Turkey's Kemal Ataturk, Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, Egypt's Colonel Nasser and the Shah: The armed forces have often been a determining factor in the Islamic world, and coups familiar. But history showed that Iran was different

concluded that purely civilian opposition, however united and however vocal, would be powerless against the bulwark of the armed forces, provided that they remained united and loyal to the Pahlavis.

Hence I am inclined to think that our lack of perception derived not from a failure of information but from a failure to interpret correctly the information available to us. We were looking down the right telescope but were focused on the wrong target. Here I blame myself unreservedly. Although I had the academic background to lead me to a correct interpretation of the facts which we had identified, I did not draw the appropriate lesson from Iran's historical past but generalized overmuch from my experience in Turkey and the Arab world.

Let me explain. From the Middle Ages until the twentieth century, the regular armed forces were at the centre of power in the Ottoman Empire. To this day the Turkish armed forces, as we have seen more than once since they overthrew the government of Adnan Menderes in 1960, have constituted the determining factor in the politics of the Turkish Republic. The Arab states which emerged in the 1920s, as the successors to the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East, inherited this tradition. We have become familiar with military coups d'état in Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, etc.

However, the Iranian tradition has been different ever since Iran re-emerged as a nation state at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Until the nineteenth century successive Shahs depended for their military strength on feudal and tribal levies: their survival or otherwise, like that of English kings before the Civil War, derived from their ability to command the loyalty of "barons" rather than the loyalty of regular forces directly answerable to the Crown. The religious leadership, together with tribal chieftains and rural landowners, had been the most influential of these elements ever since Shi'ite Islam became the state religion of Iran in the sixteenth century with the advent of the Safavid dynasty.

In the nineteenth century, with the first seeds of modernization beginning to break surface, the small nucleus of Westernized intellectuals emerged as another challenge to the absolutism of the Shah. In addition, the bazaar merchants, who controlled the levers of the traditional economy of the country, constituted a third force. The bazaars were historically the allies of the mullahs through a symbiosis which persisted through until 1978. On a number of occasions during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries these three elements - religious, intellectual, bazaar - combined to oppose some action of the Shah or to

promote some cause on which they were, albeit temporarily, united.

Three examples come to mind. In 1872 Nasruddin Shah granted a far-reaching concession to a naturalized British businessman, Baron de Reuter, which would have given him a monopoly covering almost all aspects of the Iranian economy. Under pressure from the clergy and the liberal politicians, the Shah was obliged to cancel the concession. In 1891-2 Nasruddin Shah granted a monopolistic tobacco concession to a British company. The clergy and the bazaar merchants combined to oppose this move, and the liberals disseminated pamphlets throughout the country attacking the concessions. In the end the Shah was forced to back down and the concession was withdrawn.

In the Constitutional Movement of 1905-6 the intelligentsia, the merchants and the clergy again combined to overcome the Shah's resistance to the granting of a constitution. Their methods included civil disobedience and the withdrawal of cooperation from the central government. With the country paralysed, the Shah was forced to climb down and to grant the 1906 constitution, which was still, at least in theory, the basis of government until the Shah was ousted in 1979.

Why did I not apply these lessons of history, which were part of my

late September 1978 and it was only when the political strikes began that I realised that history was indeed beginning to repeat itself. By that time it was too late for this revelation to be of much practical use.

In his book, *Answer to History*, the Shah has implied that he did not believe in the sincerity of my advice and that he could not clear his mind of his obsessive suspicion that I was the front-line instrument of some devious British plot to rob him of his throne. But I can only repeat that the advice I gave him was genuinely personal and based on my best judgment of events in a country in which I had served continuously for nearly five years. Indeed, I can still hear my own voice telling the Shah on numerous occasions that I would not tell him what I thought unless he assured me that he would accept what I had to say as the disinterested advice of a genuine well-wisher, un tainted by any ulterior motive. He invariably gave me such assurances, although I now know, as I suspected at the time, that he was intellectually and emotionally incapable - who can blame him in the light of his own history? - of accepting my views at their face value.

Strangely enough in the light of much that has been written after the event, the Shah and I were never in disagreement about the line of policy which should be followed if there was to be any hope of weathering the storm. From the moment when the nationwide strikes began for economic reasons in late September, I became convinced that there was no military solution to the crisis. The Shah was of the same mind. I can hear him saying, time and again, "A military solution is no solution," and "A dictator can survive by killing his people: a king cannot."

I have brooded long on this error of interpretation and have come to the following conclusions. First, I had become too accustomed to observing the principle of the primacy of military force in the politics of the countries in which I had served to be able to make the intellectual leap necessary to take into account the uniqueness of Iran in this regard.

Secondly, I overestimated the extent to which 60 years of Pahlavi rule had transformed the nature of Iranian social and political life.

I was inclined to think therefore, while dismissing the ballyhoo about Pahlavi Iran being a renaissance of the pre-Islamic Persian Empire, that there had been a genuine severance with the immediate pre-Pahlavi past and that contemporary Iran had evolved on the pattern of superficially similar, military based, Third World autocracies in a condition of rapid economic and social development.

This mistaken judgment led me to the conclusion that, provided the Shah could continue to depend on his powerful and loyal armed forces, he was safe from the assaults of fragmented and unarmed civilian elements however implacably hostile they might be. I continued to hold this view until

The Pride and the Fall by Sir Anthony Parsons is to be published on April 26 by Jonathan Cape (£3.95).

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We reveal all about the gorgon with Zola

moreover...
Miles Kington

Move over, Torvill and Dean! Now the British press has found another golden pair to celebrate! Yes, it's hello to Zola and Budd, the dynamic duo who have elected to come and live in Britain. And they're exclusive to Moreover!

He is Emile Zola, the prize-winning French novelist who has been driven out of France by the Dreyfus affair and now wants to write for England.

She is "Sticky" Budd, the American comedienne and the funniest thing on two legs since Kathy Acker; she thinks our audiences are the most wonderful in the world.

Together they are Zola and Budd, the wackiest duo to hit town since Richard Attenborough and Oscar.

Zola, who writes all his novels barefoot and can

hardly speak English, was granted British nationality on arrival so that he can represent Britain at the next Booker Prize. Budd, who performs in American national costume (expensive French clothes) and speaks in American subtitles, has been granted New Zealand nationality.

Boy, was that a surprise!" says Budd. "I wasn't even asking for it - I was only making inquiries at the Home Office on behalf of Zola. Apparently they work so fast at the Home Office that last year they completed three cases. Anyway, I just walked in through the door and they said: 'Hello, do you want to compete in the Olympics?'

Well, I thought that sounded fun so I said, 'Sure.' And they said they were fresh out of British nationality, but they had

to the top of the French army but everyone was against him. The French were against him because he had a German name. His family were against him because they thought it was no job for a nice Jewish boy. The French army?

they said. Who did the French army ever beat? So they sent him to Devil's Island, or what nowadays we'd call Club Méditerranée, and he has a hell of a time. We're thinking of Woody Allen for the film version."

"'J'accuse!' cries Zola. "Keep it up, baby," says Budd. "And take your asinthe."

Between them they should shake up the native British cultural scene, which for too long has been dominated by local authors like V. S. Naipaul and Salman Rushdie.

"Rushdie?" says Budd. "Isn't he the guy who's always criticizing your Indian restaurants here in London? I think they're great. Emile, what do you think of Indian food?"

"'J'accuse!', cries Emile. "He likes it", translates Budd.

What a pair! A breath of fresh air in the stuffy old world of British letters. Or, as Budd puts it: "I just love your British letters. I only wish someone would deliver them."

"'J'accuse!' cries Zola. "Keep it up, baby," says Budd. "And take your asinthe."

The only question now remaining is the one that everyone wants to ask. Is it wedding bells for Zola and Budd? Zola doesn't understand the question. Budd says: "What, and spoil everything?"

More from the dizzy duo soon. Remember - only in

Moreover!

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 321)

ACROSS

- 1 Smart (6)
- 4 Bad-tempered (6)
- 7 Excellent quality (4)
- 8 Women's rights seeker (8)
- 9 Heredity (study) (8)
- 12 Brown edible fungus (3)
- 15 Low frequency speaker (6)
- 16 Interred (6)
- 17 Obtained (3)
- 19 Earl of Strokton's nickname (8)
- 24 Extravagantly emotional (8)
- 25 Largest continent (4)
- 26 Large bottle (6)
- 27 Flexing muscle (6)

DOWN

- 1 Foolish (4)
- 2 Whit Sunday (9)
- 3 Equip again (5)
- 4 Funny paper (5)
- 5 Old Indian coin (4)
- 6 Moist meat (5)
- 10 Equal odds (5)
- 11 Scrape clean (5)
- 12 Emotional purging (9)
- 13 Amenity land (4)
- 14 Large swallow (4)
- 15 Stigmaria (2)
- 16 Entrails (5)
- 17 Stigmaria (2)
- 18 Conjunction (5)
- 19 Upright (5)
- 20 Freud collaborator (4)
- 21 Saffron (4)
- 22 Piccolo (4)
- 23 Just (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 320

ACROSS: 1 Saddhu 5 Tuba 8 Acrid 9 Impasse 11 Splatter 13 Yogi 15 Intensive 18 Role 20 Conjuction 21 Stigmaria 23 Sahib 24 Sun 25 Stucco

DOWN: 2 April 3 Did 4 United Nations 5 Tape 6 Bespoke 7 Tawse 10 Emu 12 Tae 14 Zing 15 Illicit 16 Prep 17 Mambo 20 Ad hoc 21 Pern 23 Sou

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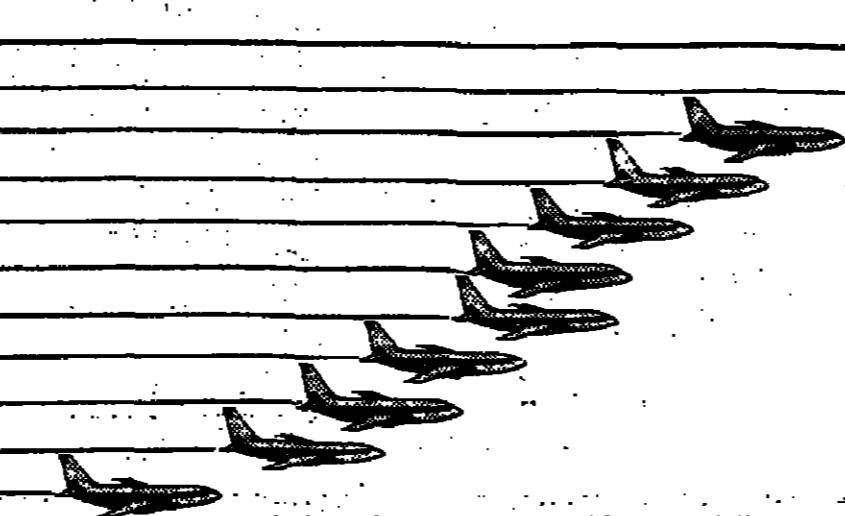
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WEDNESDAY PAGE

Veronica Grocock on how one woman survived a broken marriage

When a vicar leaves home

Mrs Freda Loynes, who is 46 and a students welfare officer, spent 17 years married to a clergyman. He worked for a Church of England missionary society based in London. They raised three children together: Suzanne, 20; David, 18; and Simon, 11. Their mother dedicated herself unstintingly to church activities, an important but frequently unsung role with none of the kudos accorded her husband.

When John, her husband, left her, on November 1, 1977, her world was stripped bare. "You go into a parish," she explains, "there's a ready-made social life, a group of people knocking on your door. I missed that."

Overnight, her circumstances changed. Feelings of anguish and isolation were compounded by the sudden shattering realization that she was likely to become homeless and rootless. The clergy are not, by definition, owner-occupiers and, if a marriage fails, no provision is made for the ex-wife and children. Clergymen are deemed to be models of virtue, beyond reproach. Priests are still put on pedestals. The ex-wife of a priest forfeits her status and, in the eyes of the church, becomes invisible.

Mrs Loynes is a positive, resourceful, assertive person and fiercely protective of her children. She had long ago become inured to the curious looks of "outsiders" when she told them her husband was a vicar (doctors' wives do not share the same curiosity value). An ex-wife in the church, she later discovered, was considered an even greater oddity: "People have this idyllic picture of the clergy and their wives which is impossible to live up to." Indeed, the divorce rate among clergy closely reflects the national average.

Though her husband was the "guilty party", Mrs Loynes felt too ashamed and embarrassed to confide in her local church. "I assumed that nobody would believe my side of the story. I thought they would brand me as a clergyman, want to leave me". When she met other ex-clergy wives, she soon became aware that they all experienced that same sense of guilt and "misplaced loyalty".

In June 1976, Mrs Loynes' husband admitted that he had been unfaithful throughout their marriage. "He just broke down and told me he'd had these affairs. I was so



After the tears: the Loynes, from left, David, Freda, Simon and Suzanne

shocked. I had no idea. He was an extrovert. Clergymen have to be sociable, amiable. A lot of women come and want to talk to them in private. I could see attractions here and there, but I trusted him."

As news spread that he had left the silence from the church was almost deafening. Scarcely a soul in authority, from the local bishop downwards, called round to offer sympathy and support – not even the women in the congregation, except a small handful of close friends, including some mothers from the playgroup which Mrs Loynes herself set up... "So I kept to my assumption that people were blaming me."

"Sometimes, after I'd put the kids to bed, I'd walk around the streets for hours and cry. It sounds terrible now," she says with a wry chuckle. She was given three months'

notice. Her local housing department told her: "When you are evicted, ring us." Then she tried the private sector, but her inquiries made little headway because of many landlords' intolerance towards young children.

Finally, she approached her local building society, who offered her a mortgage.

In August 1978, Mrs Loynes and her children moved from their church house into a neighbouring flat in north London. When she first moved, she worried about how she would manage financially and about coping alone with three growing children. "I had panic attacks, feeling up inside me. I'm much calmer now, but it took years to get that peace of mind."

What was most painful was the way he left me – without a home, and with three very young and

vulnerable children." It was hard and very lonely, but she suffered in silence. "I had this vague, illogical feeling that if I kept quiet and dignified I might still get him back."

Martial pressures had built up over the years. The vicar's wife must accustom herself to sharing him, to playing second fiddle. "Most of the time you accept this, except when you have needs of your own," she said.

One particularly bizarre instance of strained loyalties occurred when they were both working in Jamaica. (Her husband was a missionary; she taught English). Mrs Loynes, pregnant with Simon, was in a packed church one Sunday morning. She started labour in the middle of her husband's sermon. Reluctant to catch his eye and make a fuss – "I'd been trained to take a back seat" – she left him and his parish came first – she left

discretely then drove back along a bumpy track to the rectory to await her husband's return.

"It seems extraordinary now that I put up with it, but I did. He never wanted to let his parishioners down. Once he'd finished with them, I had his undivided attention."

Mrs Loynes feels that the indifference, even antagonism, to her situation as an ex-wife was symptomatic of a male-dominated institution which is out of touch with women's needs. "Nobody thinks about us (the wives)."

She is on the London committee of *Broken Rites*, an independent association of divorced and separated clergy wives offering sympathy, understanding and practical help. Winkling out the ex-wives has been a lengthy process, she says. Now, they are "flooding forward. Everybody, like me, has left a terrific relief to be out in the open and to meet others of the ilk."

A recent report, *Divorced Clergy Wives – One Year On*, shows that many divorced wives of clergy feel neglected and rejected by Church of England authorities. The report's main author is Labour MP for Birkenhead, Frank Field, a leading champion of *Broken Rites*, and recommends the introduction of a full-time post with special responsibility for seeing the difficulties of former wives.

Mrs Loynes found it upsetting at first to attend church after so many years of watching her own husband in the pulpit. She has become more critical of sermons, more aware of the gulf between what is preached and what is practised. Once, newly divorced, she sat in full view of the vicar, whom she knew. His sermon was about the shame of divorce among the clergy. "I felt it was aimed at me." For the first time in her life she got up and walked out of church.

Mrs Loynes feels a certain sense of achievement at having made it alone and relatively unscathed through the valium, tears and near-breakdown. "Looking back, I can see how much under his thumb, how *submissive*, I was, without realizing it at the time."

She would like to re-marry one day, though not to another clergyman. "But at the moment life's hectic and I'm quite enjoying just being me."

BROKEN RITES: *Inquiries to The Secretary, 44 Vardon Court, Petty France, London SW1.*

Giving the shops a dressing down

COMMENT

for a winter break. British Home Stores divisional manager Mr Alfred Newman told me, "Our customers seem to have learnt that if they wait till the weather has changed to buy things they will be out of luck. It will all have gone. Mr Newman has decided views on the seasons. Winter babywear is finished by December and no mum worth her salt buys for her children after Christmas because she cannot get six months wear out of a garment. I did not have the heart to tell Mr Newman that if I get six weeks wear out of my son's BHS school trousers I think it's a miracle. Do I send him off every morning with gaping holes at the knees or what?"

And summer comes earlier for some than other. For instance, it's late for men. You do not put men's summer wear in the shops in February. "Men are always last," said Mr Newman gloomily. "I say they were less easily bullied. Retailers insist there is little demand for anything except summer gear after Christmas – except in the sales. Well that is not quite what Mr Deacon believes. The nation's retailers are terrified of being left with stock at the end of the season, so they are cautious about reordering."

The truth is that it makes far more economic sense for a shop to have too little than too much – have too little and you can tell everyone it all sold like hot cakes. Have too much and it's a forest of "sale bargain" signs leading to the salt mines.

This would be more understandable if retailers were not making massive profits at the moment. It is one of the most powerful industries in the country and it holds its manufacturers in thrall. You'd think they could chance their arm with a few pairs of thermal knickers or some woolly tights at this time of year, wouldn't you? Perhaps they should get some of their researchers to look at the problem. It might make a nice change from studying the shelf life of an orange to investigate if the customer might indeed want goods in the appropriate season.

Maggie Drummond

Classical dishes for Easter

The Greeks and Romans long ago cornered the market in festive Easter fare. As well as special breads, cakes and biscuits, there are all kinds of traditional dishes ranging from an Easter soup based on the spiced entrails of the lambs that are spit-roasted all over Greece to mark the occasion, to Tuscany's Easter ricotta fritters.

Italians are almost as keen on spring lamb as the Greeks and an authentic rendering of *abbacchio alla cacciatora* demands milk-fed lamb no more than a month old. Sage,

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THE TIMES COOK



Shona Crawford Poole

Traditional Easter recipe of Emilia-Romagna calls for lamb which is not quite so indecently young. A small shoulder of new season's lamb is the best cut for this melt-in-the-mouth pot-roast. I cook Marcella Hazan's version of it in a deep saute pan, but a large sautepan or a flameproof casserole will do equally well.

Arrosto di agnello pasquale
Serves four

3 tablespoons olive oil
30 g (1 oz) butter
3 cloves garlic, peeled
900 g (2 lb) shoulder of spring lamb
1 sprig of rosemary
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
150 ml (4 pint) dry white wine.

Heat the oil and butter in the pan on a medium heat until the butter foams. As the foam dies, add the garlic, lamb and rosemary. Brown the lamb well on all sides, but especially the skin. Do not allow the garlic to become too brown or it will taste bitter.

Add salt and about six turns of the pepper mill, and the wine. Bring the liquid to the boil, turning the lamb in it a couple of times, then cover and

simmer the meat for 1½ to 2 hours, turning it several times. Make sure that the liquid does not evaporate completely and add a little warm water if there is any danger of the meat drying out. When the lamb is cooked it should be very tender – tender enough to cut with a fork. Transfer it to a warm serving dish. Skim the pan juices of all but one or two tablespoons of fat. Add two tablespoons of water, raise the heat and scrape up and loosen all the cooking residue in the pan. Pour this over the lamb and serve it.

Fried fennel or battered and fried strips of *cotechino* are authentic Italian accompaniments to Easter lamb. Lightly cooked *mangia-tout* peas and new potatoes anglicize it and make it more seasonal.

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Stir the sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, currants and peel into the remaining flour. Add the risen batter, the melted butter and the egg and mix well. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured board and knead it lightly until it feels smooth and elastic. Cover the dough and leave it to rise until it has again doubled its bulk.

When it has proved for the second time, it can be shaped and baked. Divide the dough into 16 equal pieces and roll each into a ball. Space them out on a greased and floured baking tray. Cover the buns lightly and leave them to rise until they have doubled their size.

To make the crosses either slash the buns with a very sharp knife or scissors; or mark them with ribbons of very thinly rolled pastry.

Bake the hot cross buns in a preheated hot oven (230°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 15 minutes. Take them from the oven and paint them immediately with the glaze. Allow them to cool for about 10 minutes before serving them with fresh butter.

If you plan to serve the buns early on Good Friday morning the can be prepared and shaped the day before, and left overnight in the refrigerator covered loosely with plastic wrap. Add a few minutes to the baking time to take account of the extra cold dough.

Easter biscuits are another spicy traditional recipe and quicker to make than the yeast-raised buns.

Easter biscuits
Makes about 18
110 g (4 oz) butter
110 g (4 oz) sugar
1 egg
225 g (8 oz) plain flour
1 teaspoon mixed ground spices
½ teaspoon salt
55 g (2 oz) currants
1 tablespoon finely chopped candied peel
A little milk to mix
To decorate
1 egg white
4 tablespoons granulated sugar

Cream together the butter and sugar until the mixture is pale and fluffy, then beat in the egg with a spoonful of flour. Sift the rest of the flour with the spice and salt.

Combine the creamed mixture with the spiced flour, currants and peel and enough milk to make a stiff dough. Chill the dough for at least 30 minutes before rolling it thinly. Using a round crinkle-edged cutter, quite a large one, cut out the biscuits and arrange them on greased baking sheets.

Bake the biscuits in preheated moderately hot oven (200°C/400°F, gas mark 6) for about 15 minutes, or until they are cooked and very lightly browned. After they have been in the oven for 10 minutes, brush the tops with egg white and sprinkle them with sugar, then return them to the oven to finish baking.

Cool the biscuits on a wire rack and store them in an airtight tin.

woman's Journal



THAT CERTAIN SOMETHING

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THE MAGAZINE OF GLAD EDITIONS LOVE OR INFLAMMATION



Clubbing apart

Cecil Parkinson, I hear, has left the Reform Club. Friends say his departure was prompted by the risk of being confronted by his former secretary, Sara Keays, also a Reform Club member, who made her first, "public appearance" since the birth of their child Flora a week yesterday. Parkinson's new secretary, Angela Mathew, insisted: "He never used the Reform - he thought it was a waste of money." Now Parkinson's only refuge is the Carlton Club where, for the moment at least, he is on safer ground. It allows only lady associate members (LAMs) who, I am told, must be MPs, MEPs, or Conservative peers.

Craft, not graft

Work on Kelmscott Manor, Oxfordshire, William Morris's summer home, appears to be in good hands. Workmen emerge from vans marked W. Morris. I am assured that no nepotism extends beyond the grave of the great English craftsman. The building firm in question is Walter E. Morris of Black Bourton, Oxfordshire. Definitely no relation.

So good, sofa

The 40 psychoanalysts who have taken over the Castle Hotel in Taunton for a week's international conference - after vetting each room for size, décor and colour - are promising to improve upon the hotel's Michelin star. They say that if it lives up to first impressions they will award owner Kit Chapman a couch.

Open and shut

Blackburn District Council is to give £300 to the Campaign for Freedom of Information, the group launched this year to combat secrecy in public places. The decision was taken by the grants sub-committee - at a meeting which, like all of the council's working parties, is closed to the press and public.

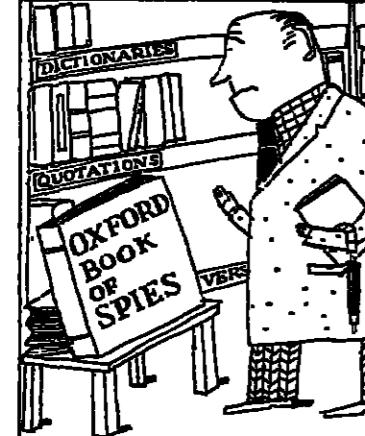
Calf measure

Ken Livingstone, who has just struck veal off the menu at County Hall on humanitarian grounds, is clearly unaware that the GLC rents out a veal-producing farm in Barnet, just outside London. Indeed Quantock Veal tell me it has just built two barns to expand production. Now Livingstone has been invited to visit the farm to see "the most humane method of farming". It sounds like an issue that Tory GLC councillors could milk for all their worth.

Spires and spy

It has not gone unnoticed by the Opposition front bench that, with the Bettany trial, Oxford is finally vying with Cambridge in the spy graduate stakes. *The Times* has received a letter at its House of Commons office: "What have the following in common? Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, Sec of State for Defence; Rt Hon Denzil Davies, Shadow defence spokesman; Sir Frank Cooper, former Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Michael Bettany, MJS sent down (KGB) (failed). All were educated at Pembroke College, Oxford!" The hand-written letter was signed: Denzil Davies, MP.

BARRY FANTONI



Phantom fears

After the cast of *Breakneck*, the play about killer Ruth Ellis, was showered in a torrent of pigeon droppings during rehearsals, I wonder what fate will befall the next performers at the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. *The Phantom of the Opera*, which opens on May 9, is directed by Ken Hill, whose last play at Stratford, *The Pharaoh's Curse*, left the theatre in mayhem. Manager Philip Hedley fell and cracked his head after reading the reviews; the theatre handman broke his leg; Ken Hill's venomous snake, Asp, bit and killed Critchley, the bar cat; the bar staff threatened to strike; Asp was banished - and replaced by a rubber snake.

Armed struggle

Mrs Thatcher's revival of hereditary peerages seems to have brought the age of chivalry to her court. Sir Alfred Sherman, close counsellor and occasional jester, is considering a coat of arms and the devices he might use on the shield. He favours a lance tipped with a pen nib, as befits a founder of that right-wing round table, the Centre for Policy Studies, whose members have fought long and hard in the lists against such heraldic beasts as the griffin, the flying picket and the decadent neo-Keynesians. The motto Sir Alfred has chosen: "He who dares to think will dare everything".

PHS

THE TIMES DIARY

George Walden on the aftermath of the embassy shooting

Libya: issues that must be faced

Diplomatic history is rich in outrage. There is no lack of precedents for the use of embassies as bases for the surveillance, intimidation and even elimination of dissidents. But yesterday's appalling attack from the Libyan People's Bureau on demonstrators will go down as one of the most monstrous events in a lengthening catalogue of enormities.

The obvious question is: how did we get into a position where diplomatic missions can be used in this way? Impatience with what are seen as technical niceties is understandable at such moments. But it is still worth looking at the background to yesterday's events, as well as at some of the harsher realities governing present international relations.

Ever since Colonel Gaddafi declared that the Libyan embassy in London, along with those in other countries, had been transformed into a "People's Bureau" there have been troubles and tensions. The whole philosophy behind the take-over was that the Libyan "people" would deal directly with the British "people" - though the new diplomats were keen to preserve their immunities as well. The Foreign Office reaction was to try to corral the new mission within the accepted conventions.

The first step was to find out who was in charge of the "Bureau". Once the "Secretary General of the People's Committee" running the embassy had been formally accepted as a charge d'affaires the Government had what it needed: somebody



June 1980: Muammar Gaddafi shortly before the Foreign Office demanded his recall to Tripoli

who was formally and legally responsible with whom to deal.

But all this did not prevent the murder of Libyan dissidents in early 1980, the dispatch of the then Under-Secretary, Sir Anthony Ackland, to Tripoli to reason with the Libyan government, or the eventual declaration of the head of the bureau, Muammar Gaddafi, as *persona non grata* because of "activities incompatible with his status".

Why did we not break off, or at least suspend, diplomatic ties with Libya at the time? There was no lack of moral or technical grounds for closing the mission. But, as usual, questions of what seems right have

to be judged against what is sensible, and even an element of self-interest cannot be avoided.

Relations between states are a moral minefield. When the British mission in Peking was sacked and its personnel beaten up by Red Guards, we did not break relations with China despite public pressure. The main reason was that, in the turmoil of the time, Peking would probably have simply held our diplomats hostage. British businessmen in China could also have been in danger.

In the case of Libya, it would have been irresponsible not to take account of the 7,000 British citizens

working there. Nor is it necessarily evidence of moral flaccidity to put £300m worth of British exports into the balance. And finally, the brutal question has to be asked: would a severance of relations have prevented the attacks on Libyans living or studying in Britain?

But yesterday's appalling events, following the recent bombing, must lead to a complete reassessment of our strategy for dealing with the Libyans. Our exports cannot be bought by countenancing anarchy in St James's Square; toleration cannot extend to the killing of police-women.

We must make clear to Colonel Gaddafi that enough is enough. Without imperilling the safety of British citizens, there must be an orderly withdrawal of the staff of the Libyan mission. This is the challenge that faces the Foreign Office.

It is little comfort to know that we are not alone. Recent events in Paris and Germany, not to mention Middle Eastern capitals, are evidence of a deterioration in the fragile conventions of which civilized international contacts depend.

When the immediate crisis is over, we must look urgently at two areas of concern. The first is the misuse of the diplomatic bags, an issue which is bound to arise again after yesterday's incident; the second is the whole thorny issue of the status of foreign missions. Both are large cans of worms. But public patience will not endure indefinitely. The author, Conservative MP for Buckingham, was private secretary to Lord Carrington when Foreign Secretary.

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Peter Kellner

Here's health - to big business

Whom does the National Health Service exist to serve? Thirty-six years after its foundation it is something of a scandal that the answer is far from clear.

It ought to be clear, of course. Most people would agree that the NHS should promote the health of the population, provide everyone who needs treatment with prompt and adequate access to medical help, and use taxpayers' money as fairly and efficiently as possible. I should be surprised if many people quarrelled with that - even those who disagree on other aspects of health policy, such as private medicine or prescription charges.

There is, however, another answer. It is not to be found anywhere in Hansard, or in the transcripts of any *Panorama* or *Weekend World* interview. It is to be found instead in the contents of two reports the Government has tried to suppress: the boardings around many cricket grounds, in the balance sheets of some of Britain's most profitable companies, and in chemical analysis of almost any beefburger. It is that the NHS serves the interests of the medical profession, the tobacco companies, the drugs and medical supplies industry, and the makers of fatty foods.

The Department of Health and Social Security's sorry record long predates the present government. But since the Conservatives returned to power five years ago, the DHSS's stewardship of the health service has markedly worsened.

The pattern was set three years ago when Patrick Jenkin, then Secretary of State for Social Services, tried to bury the report *Inequalities in Health*, which documented how far the NHS remained from the ideal of equal care for all. Fortunately for anyone with a care for truth and social justice, Mr Jenkin botched his plan, and the report escaped into the daylight. He had quietly made a few copies available without allowing any accompanying summaries or publicity, and naively hoped that nobody much would notice.

Mr Jenkin's successor, Norman Fowler, learnt the lesson: if you are going to suppress things, do it properly. Last year the National Advisory Committee on Nutritional Education analysed how we were eating the wrong kind of food, and recommended how much of what

we should eat instead. If we take standard DHSS practice as our guide, the answers are depressingly obvious. Yet radical action by Mr Clarke ought to appeal to the ideological instincts of a government that preaches the benefits of free-market capitalism.

Two of the most basic principles of such a system are that monopolies should give way to competition, and that complete information should be made available to consumers to enable them to make rational decisions.

I realize it is a bit much to ask a Conservative government to apply socialist principles to the NHS. But it is also too much to ask it to apply basic Tory principles: where they might do some good?

The author is political editor of the *New Statesman*.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne

Problem: getting Rooke to move

The second Viscount Hall has an unusual claim to fame. He is, so far as I recall, the only chairman of a nationalised industry to have been dismissed.

It is a curious paradox. Over the years it has been a recurrent theme of chairmen of our public corporations that the formidable task of attempting to manage vast enterprises more or less insulated from the pressures and disciplines of the market place have been immensely complicated by the meddling and chronic schizophrenia of ministers and civil servants. When one compares the relationships of public corporations with their sponsoring departments overseas - in France for example - it would be hard to deny that our techniques leave something to be desired. Yet it is equally apparent that the chairman of a British public corporation who knows his own mind and is sufficiently determined to get his own way can display a defiance of the chosen preferences of the representatives of his shareholders which would not be lightly tolerated in the private sector.

Which brings us to the case of Sir Denis Rooke. Sir Denis is a citizen of credit and renown. Among the great captains of the public sector he now stands first in order of seniority. A gasman to his fingertips who joined the South-Eastern Gas Board in 1949, he was appointed deputy chairman of the old Gas Council in the days of Edward Heath and raised to the chairmanship in 1976. He witnessed the transformation of the Cinderella of the energy industries and master-minded its emergence as the shining British High Speed Gas we have come to know and love. Through the recession, when other public corporations were reporting big losses, he alone was yearly generating profit on a scale to make even the world-weary mandarins of the Treasury salivate.

When one reflects that a previous wizard scheme by British Gas to buy supplies from the Norwegian Frigg field (at prices which he does not dream of paying for supplies from our own side of the North Sea basin), and seems to be implying that if ministers do not back up and bless his business acumen, he will go ahead without him.

But the moral of this lengthy saga is surely this. So long as the heads of the public corporations vigorously pursue the achievement of the purposes set out for them by the elected representatives of their owners, those representatives should support them. Equally, however, if and when it becomes clear that their purposes are in conflict with those of their elected masters, then the time has come for them to go.

Since it was glaringly apparent that Sir Denis fell into the latter category long before his first term of office expired, it was a mystery to some of us that he was asked to carry on. "Best man for the job", we were soothily assured. Can that really still be so?

Brownies, Boonies

New words for old/Philip Howard

I was never a Brownie. But I was a Wolf Cub, until our pack was disbanded with dishonour for setting the woods near Greenham Common on fire. And what we worked away for was not points, but badges, toggles, or possibly woggles, and a Smile from Akela, the pack leader, with whom we all in love. I do not believe that Brownies get points either.

If you are going to take a serious interest in slang, you need a nasty mind. A quick look in any dictionary of slang will show that any expression with brown in it is more likely to be sexist than to have anything to do with Girl Scout Brownies. These matters of vernacular are not susceptible to proof, but I regret to have to say that the term Brownie point is more likely to be

military than scouting, and to derive from brown-nose or brown-tongue (cf bum-sucker), an essential part of the ambitious officer's repertoire.

I have a witty American acquaintance who lives in darkest Berkshire. Her neighbours have been asking her for points, with bright eyes and hoping for a Brownie point, what she thinks of living in Scotland. She habitually says: "It's really the boondocks, isn't it?" They purr, taking this to be an American superlative of commendation. She may have to find a new reply, since American television has started to bring this bit of slang into Britain, often abbreviated to "the Boonies".

The Boonies are another bit of military slang. War and military service are great fun for slang. During the last war GIs stationed in

the Philippines were sometimes, when unlucky, sent on duty to a mountain region, the back of beyond, called Bumkod in Tagalog. It means "in the sticks", another agreeable piece of American slang. If you lived out of town in early America, you lived in the woods, in a log cabin, I dare say, in the sticks.

I have also come across misunderstandings in Britain of the term rain checks. In the US using and taking a rain check originated from the civilized custom of issuing free tickets for the postponed match to spectators whose enjoyment of a baseball game had been interrupted by bad weather. The phrase has been widely adapted. "Give me a rain check" means "I really don't want to have lunch with you".

Brits are unaware that Americans are using check as a synonym for ticket. They assume that check means test. Consequently they use to take a rain check to mean, "to test whether it is raining, or will rain"; and, by extension, to check whether a future event of almost any kind is likely to occur.

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AN UNDIPLOMATIC OUTRAGE

Diplomatic relations can survive quite a lot because they exist for the conduct of necessary business even between adversaries or countries with bad relations. But they depend on the mutual observance of certain clear conventions in return for which the representatives of each side are granted immunities. Libya's representatives in this country long ago gave many signs of having abandoned these conventions. Although there was no proof, the British authorities believe that what passes for a Libyan embassy in London – the Libyan People's Bureau – bears some responsibility, even if indirect, for last month's bomb attacks in London and for other acts of terrorism, including the murder of three Libyan critics of the Gaddafi regime in 1980. The situation began to look even more ominous when a "student" group took control of the embassy in February, apparently with support from Tripoli, and criticized Britain for harbouring enemies of Colonel Gaddafi.

Now comes an outrage that would be appalling by any standards. By diplomatic standards it is wholly intolerable. Members of Libya's official representation have opened fire on a London square, killing a British policewoman and woun-

ding many others. There were demonstrations going on at the time, so perhaps the Libyans inside the building feared an assault. There had been warnings that the PLO might attack Libyan missions abroad. But even this provides no excuse for such murderous and irresponsible behaviour. The external protection of foreign embassies in London is the job of the British authorities, who were doubtless as aware as the Libyans of any threats that had been made. There was no sign whatever of the demonstration getting out of hand.

The situation is made even worse by the fact that the Libyan government, far from apologizing or pleading self-defence against the demonstrators, has had the amazing effrontery to say that the British police were assaulting the building. Therefore the shooting cannot be treated as a mistake to be smoothed over with apologies and compensation. It has to be treated as an act for which the Libyan government takes responsibility. In fact, it looks like a logical sequel to the hysterical outpourings of hate against Britain which have appeared in the Libyan press recently.

This puts the British government in a very difficult quan-

tidy. The proper and unavoidable response to the incident is to expel the entire Libyan mission, but there are about twenty British diplomats plus dependents in Libya and about 8,500 other British citizens. The Libyan press has already threatened that any "humiliation" of Libyan or Arab citizens in Britain will be met with "ten-fold humiliation for Britons staying in Libya and the rest of the Arab homeland". The level of paranoid hysteria now evident in Libya makes almost any madness possible.

So, while the British government must safeguard its citizens from Libyan outrages in London it cannot ignore the safety of those in Libya itself. Perhaps the Libyan government would think twice about the economic cost of doing anything that would sever all relations with Britain but logical considerations of this sort cannot be relied upon to prevail in Tripoli at the moment. The British government will therefore have to tread carefully.

Nevertheless, important points of principle and national security are at stake and there can be no doubt about what the end result should be. Britain cannot permit foreign wars to be fought on its soil, or foreign "diplomats" to fire on British citizens.

SCHOOL MEALS IN NO-MAN'S LAND

School meals and the women who serve them once occupied a prize place in the national affections. The lunches themselves were associated with that Webbite conviction in national efficiency through state-ordered diet. And the women, dinner ladies, enjoyed maternal respect, representing the nanny state at her most caring. The modern reality is usually a lot less misty-eyed. School lunches now occupy a no-man's-land between giving the customers what they want, and can afford, and what is deemed good for them and the unionized labour serving them. The task of supervising lunches is resented by teachers: their subsidies are often a drain on the provision of money for education proper.

There is a mixed pattern, reflecting the uncertainty of councils about their welfare role: here large scale subsidies for meals (in the Inner London Education Authority for example); there the abandonment of hot food altogether. What is – or ought to be – clear everywhere is that employing dinner ladies is not an act of charity. They are employed, like all municipal staff, to provide a service which, the public often suspect, could be more cheaply provided by the private sector. That service the elected local authorities of Devon and Lincoln and Hertfordshire and Birmingham have decided, with misgivings, to keep, provided unit costs can be reduced. Monday's Division Court judgment will assist these and other councils in businesslike management.

For years Treasury and Environment ministers have been telling local authorities that they could provide an unchanged array of services at less cost. In vain: councils have replied that only major surgery on their activities would produce savings; the result has been to embellish these national rates locally, to make additional payments here, give weightings there. The judgment opens the possibility that the trend may now be reversing. Birmingham, one of the councils in court (it went down because it did not follow the municipal rule-book to the letter), has been trying to pare down one of these accretions, to the pay system, retainer payments for dinner ladies during the summer vacation. On the wider canvass, perhaps the way is now open for uncoupling part-time rates from full-time payments altogether, to make part-time employment more casual, flexible and cheaper.

The converse of the substantial savings in cost which Hertfordshire and East Sussex may now reap is of course a drop in family income. Taken as a whole the public accounts may show an increase in the uptake of certain social benefits as a result, especially in those low income families where the wife's earnings have moved from the periphery to the centre of the household budget. But the answer to that problem is more part-time work, not less. It certainly is not the continuing distortion of councils' financial management by immoveable national deals on pay and conditions.

BRAZILIANS ON THE STREETS

The Brazilian liberalization process began in 1974, and sceptical observers have been heard to say that it must be the most long-drawn-out such process in recent Latin American history. But this last week's massive demonstrations – more than a million in the streets in both Rio and in São Paulo – bring a new intensity of pressure to bear on the government. They look like marking the real beginning of the end.

Their immediate aim is to bring pressure to bear on Congress for *Diretas Já*, direct free presidential elections this year, which the opposition will bring to the vote on April 25. President Figueiredo has declared his resolve to stick by indirect elections until 1988. The vote may go against him. Even if it does not, it is hard to see how the military government's authority can be restored. The present conjuncture is therefore the most critical in Brazilian politics for the last twenty years. As these twenty years have been ones of severely limited political expression, the outcome is the harder to predict. No Brazilian under the age of forty has voted in a free election. The fate of parties created for the limited politics of military tutelage is uncertain when the soldiers go. Many soldiers are aware of what has happened in Argentina, and many have been spectacularly

corrupt: the "Argentina effect" on them is hard to measure, but it is certainly one element in their current thinking.

There are nevertheless some general conclusions that can be drawn from observing the current confrontation, and they are clearer and at least as important as the short-term outcome. First, this is a general opposition: it embraces the unions, the workers' party and the radical church, but it also embraces the middle classes – far larger and more demanding middle classes than those of 1964 – and the entrepreneurs as well as the more easily recognized football stars, singers or sociologists, the cultural leaders of modern Brazil. Secondly, it is so far a moderate opposition, and likely to be the more effective and united for that. It unites not on class interests or social revolution but on political liberty. The most prominent leader, the Governor of Rio Leonel Brizola, has a radical nationalist past but hardly a radical nationalist current tone. At first sight this moderation can seem a surprising response to the austerities of the last three years, the deepest recession of the last fifty. Thirdly, these two aspects together signal a loss of authority by the current government that certainly carries important implications for Brazil's creditors.

It is a feature of Latin

America's current crisis that those who have lost authority are the authoritarians, and not simply through the bad luck of being in power when it struck. The effective government that is needed for negotiating the crisis can only be had through more politics, not less. It is possible that democracies are more effective than the various forms of authoritarian rule, and that people will accept from governments of their own choosing restraints that cannot be imposed on them.

Brazil has recently made extraordinary efforts, achieving a record trade surplus through a combination of drive abroad and import restriction at home, but it is unlikely by conventional extrapolations that the economy will right itself before the end of the decade. In these circumstances a prescription of relative political inertia until 1988 is perhaps simply unrealistic, and those who see such a formula as any sort of guarantee of stricter orthodoxy in the management of the country's economy are not realistic either. A popularly-elected government will, of course be conscious of its origins when bargaining with Brazil's creditors. A military government near its end will be at least equally conscious of popular opposition. Neither can achieve the impossible, but the first has distinct practical advantages.

A balancing act on punishment

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust

Sir, When the 364 academic economists made their statement three years ago there was virtually no response from others. Now that you have reopened the discussion, your Economics Editor (March 30) is right to ask for more "meeting of minds".

Mr Brittan's contribution to the capital punishment debate, in which he argued for the execution of terrorists as a special class of murderer, was based not on empiricism but on "the duty of the state to signal its total and absolute repugnance for those who commit crimes that undermine its very foundations".

His changes in parole and life-lifetime are predicated on similar grounds. For the evidence shows conclusively that those who have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment are actually better parole risks than those on short sentences. (Incidentally, it is not true that there are now determinate sentences for the most serious homicides. As the Home Secretary made clear at the Conservative Party conference, his policy specifies minimum periods of detention which may well be exceeded in certain cases.)

Your other examples are no more convincing. It would be difficult to think of any academic criminologist who would regard the massive expansion of prison building as a cost-effective use of resources. Weekend imprisonment has proved a notable failure in Holland and Belgium. The growth in community service orders has been brought to a virtual standstill. On the basis of innumerable research studies the Home Office itself now places far greater emphasis upon crime prevention and attributes relatively little value to imprisonment as an instrument of crime control. Would it not be more accurate to interpret the Home Secretary's policy as a balancing act between his officials and the retributivists in his own party?

While you are right to draw attention to the shift in sentencing practice away from detention centres as a result of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, does not such an interpretation better explain Mr Brittan's announcement on short, sharp shocks than your own?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, NW1.
April 13.

Future of steel

From the General Secretary of The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

Sir, Far be it from me to defend the misconceived investment strategy followed by BSC in the 1970s, but Mr Montgomery, in his letter to you of April 9, makes a number of points which will not stand up.

Modernisation of the steel industry was undertaken under public ownership because the private sector had failed in the 1960s to do the job. There is plenty of evidence for this, some of it in the Conservative White Paper of 1973. Modernisation came late and in the wrong form, but it had to come.

As for demand, it was falling in the 1970s but it only really slumped after 1979, following the election of that year, and it is falling still. Faced with this result of its own actions, the Conservative Government, far from extending nationalisation as Mr Montgomery suggests, has privatised many parts of BSC and plans to privatisate more.

These newly private firms do have a monopoly, but during the 1970s the United Kingdom consumer had a second, private-sector option if the public sector failed him.

Mr Montgomery's proposal to set up Shotton Works plc, far from being revolutionary, would simply reinforce the trend of recent years, viz. a public asset with expensive kit put on show prior to sale at below its real price.

Yours sincerely,
W. H. COCKCROFT,
General Secretary,
The Iron and Steel Trades
Confederation,
Swinton House,
234 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.

Threat to Opera 80

From Mr Denis McGarry

Sir, As an area arts association trying to bring the best of music and drama into an underserved area – and on a very stringent budget – we would be the first to applaud any move by the Arts Council to improve arts provision in the regions.

This may well be their intention with the recently announced reallocation of funds, but we find one of the notified "cuts" particularly baffling – that of the excellent and irreplaceable Opera 80.

We have promoted annual visits by Opera 80 ever since it was formed. Without exception, the productions have been outstanding on every level and audiences have flocked to see them – as indeed they

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A businesslike view of the economy

From Mr Peter Gordon-Potts and Mr David Kingston

Sir, When the 364 academic economists made their statement three years ago there was virtually no response from others. Now that you have reopened the discussion, your Economics Editor (March 30) is right to ask for more "meeting of minds".

The numbers in employment have fallen, not primarily because of "lack of demand" but because fewer people are needed to satisfy the same demand. Productivity and international competitiveness in manufacturing have improved substantially, due to improvements in technology and to a new corporate culture which is more efficient and cost-conscious. Some plants have been closed but new operating practices have been introduced in many of those which remain open. A former footloose has thus been created for future expansion.

As a start, here are three aspects of the economy which economists in business may see rather differently from those whose experience is primarily academic.

1. Inflation is not just a technical aspect of the economy, something which can be dealt with by indexation, leaving other things equal. High levels of inflation are themselves damaging: they erode the bases of commercial contracts, they sap confidence and encourage caution in the interests of survival.

Reduction in inflation brings, of itself, real and lasting benefits.

Companies can apply their cash flow to productive investment and not merely to maintaining their working capital intact. The benefits are beginning to flow.

2. The level of employment is not simply a function of the level of activity. It has also been, especially in the past few years, a matter of not using substantially more people for a given output than are used in countries with which we compare and compete.

It is therefore a function of our national efficiency. For many plausible reasons we employed three people when other comparable countries employed only two. A condition had to be created to bring about employment comparability.

Academic economists believe that this condition was met by the creation of unemployment itself, in

fact, the impetus came from stringent monetary conditions leading to corporate losses, a spate of closures and threats of more.

The numbers in employment have fallen, not primarily because of "lack of demand" but because fewer people are needed to satisfy the same demand. Productivity and international competitiveness in manufacturing have improved substantially, due to improvements in technology and to a new corporate culture which is more efficient and cost-conscious. Some plants have been closed but new operating practices have been introduced in many of those which remain open. A former footloose has thus been created for future expansion.

3. Reducing inflation is not simply a function of the level of unemployment. It is the pressures of the "monetarist" environment which have brought about the change we have seen. What is more, productivity is now rising so rapidly in manufacturing industry and has so far to rise in many other sectors of the economy that the improvement in efficiency, with consequential benefits for inflation, looks to be well sustainable.

The proviso is that the Government retains the will and skill to ensure that all sectors of the economy operate in an environment of controlled, humane and consistent monetary discipline.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GORDON-POTTS (Group
Economic Adviser, Imperial
Group),
DAVID KINGSTON (Senior
Economist, PA Management
Consultants),

As from Imperial House,
1 Grosvenor Place, SW1.
April 11.

Preferential voting by means of the single transferable vote – the "voter's choice" – is ideally suited to bodies where diverse interests must inevitably cross party lines to cooperate for the greater good. There are many good precedents. The legislators could examine three.

The Scottish education authorities between the wars were directly elected by the single transferable vote. Currently the school boards of the city of New York are directly elected by this method. So also is the General Medical Council and the report of the Morrison committee, which resulted in the GMC adopting STV, gives a closely reasoned argument. Their findings have been well borne out in practice.

Yours faithfully,
GERVASE TINLEY, Chairman,
The Electoral Reform Society,
6 Chancery Street,
Blackfriars, SE1.

Tax on generosity in buying art

From the Chairman of the National Art Collections Fund

Sir, Mrs Geraldine Norman (feature, April 14) points to the inevitable action which the British government must now take if it wishes to prevent an increasing number of our art treasures drifting overseas – tax concessions similar to those which are made in the United States. I fear that we shall lose more highly important works of art before adequate action is taken.

However, there is one small adjustment which the Government can easily make by removing a damaging VAT anomaly

I doubt whether many people are aware that when a national or university museum or gallery buys a work of art at auction or through a dealer VAT has to be paid on the auction or dealer's commission. The only exception to this is municipal galleries. In the case of an overseas buyer, no VAT is payable.

In effect, the tax is designed to favour the overseas over the domestic buyer, even when the latter is purchasing for the national patrimony. In the case of expensive works of art the tax payable runs into many thousands of pounds and reduces the chances of our public galleries competing successfully against overseas buyers.

Members of the National Art Collections Fund, who give freely of their own money to help secure works of art for the nation, are naturally indignant that a tax should be levied on their collections.

Yours faithfully,

NORMANBY, Chairman,
National Art Collections Fund,
20 John Islip Street, SW1.
April 16.

Words and worship

From Mr Simon Preston

Sir, On reading Roger Scruton's excellent article (April 10) about the abandonment of *The Book of Common Prayer* in our churches and cathedrals and his conclusion that it is the clergy of the Church of England who arrogantly refuse to reconsider, I was immediately reminded of the correspondence which appeared in your columns around last Christmas about the declining number of boys entering our choir schools and cathedral choirs.

At the time it was argued that the schools fault lay more with the schools themselves rather than in anything inherently wrong with the tradition and the system, but surely one of the prime reasons for the apparent decline in interest is the lack of commitment from the clergy to the language of the services and hence to the role of the choirs within these liturgies.

The introduction of modern liturgies in the shape of the *Alternative Service Book* has been forced upon cathedral and parish church alike, regardless of their differing approach to worship; consequently this grim uniformity has tended to increase considerably congregational participation in cathedral services while at the same time reducing the role of the choir.

In the light of this lack of commitment to the traditional language of the Church of England and to the traditional role of the choir in the liturgy of the cathedral, is there any wonder that parents of prospective choristers feel that perhaps they would rather not commit their son to the care of clergy whose aesthetic judgment must be in question?

Until the clergy come to their senses the efforts of musicians in the service of the Church to maintain the standard of singing which has been the envy of the rest of the world for so long will be largely wasted.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PRESTON,
8 The Little Cloister,
Westminster Abbey, SW1.
April 10.

WRNS at sea

From Mr S. M. Mackenzie

Sir, Your statement on April 6 that Second Officer Nuttall, WRNS, has become the first female member of a Royal Navy ship's company to live on board her ship at sea is not strictly accurate.

In late 1940 HMS Fidelity was commissioned at Barrow Docks with a mainly French crew, all of whom had joined the Royal Navy. Amongst her officers was First Officer Barclay, WRNS, who played a fully executive role in running the ship and served on board until HMS Fidelity was torpedoed and lost with all hands in mid-Atlantic on December 31, 1942. Nine of the officers lost were British.

Whilst HMS Fidelity was not perhaps a typical Royal Navy war

THE ARTS

Tony Palmer, the film and television director, tonight stages his first opera, *Turandot*, at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow. Some of the keys to Puccini's unfinished work, he writes, lie in the composer's private life

A vain quest for final reconciliation

The problem with *Turandot* is that Puccini left it unfinished. In 1924 the pains in his throat were finally diagnosed as cancer and, despite surgery in Brussels, he died without completing the music for the last two scenes. His pupil and friend Alfano somewhat reluctantly agreed to provide an appropriate end based upon the already existing libretto and Puccini's sketches. We now know that Toscanini, who conducted the première, edited Alfano's work, declaring that there was "too much Alfano and not enough Puccini". Recently, thanks to the efforts of Alan Sieveright among others, Alfano's original ending was performed at the Barbican. Unfortunately neither Alan Sieveright nor Alfano, it seems to me, approached the heart of the matter. It is not that Puccini failed to finish *Turandot* because he died of throat cancer; it is that he could not finish it.

The bulk of Puccini's creative output was written in less than two decades, between 1890 and 1908. Although he lived for a further 17 years, he only produced three one-act operas. *La Rondine*, described in the Ricordi score as an operetta, and an unfinished work. Yet here was a man who loved wine, women and song (more or less in that order), fast cars, motorbikes and yachts – in other words the good life. He needed to earn money, as he had no resources of his own other than the payments he received from his Milanese publisher, Ricordi. He did not announce after *Fanciulla* that he was retiring (like Sibelius); he did not suffer any major critical reverses. The public adored his work and performances of it were frequent and worldwide. Something must have happened, therefore, which stopped him in his tracks. And that something, I believe, provides a clue to the real meaning of *Turandot*.

Puccini had first met Elvira Gemignani, the wife of a merchant

from Lucca, in about 1880. He was 22. Four years later they eloped, and in 1886 she bore him his only child, a son, Antonio. Although Puccini had discovered the village of Torre del Lago, ten miles from Pisa, in 1884, he did not finally move into his own house there until the summer of 1900. The village, which had only 12 houses, was described by Puccini as his "Eden", his "Paradise".

Elvira's first husband died late in 1903, and on January 3, 1904, Elvira and Puccini were married. Almost immediately afterwards the Puccini household took on a full-time maid, Doria Manfredi. Doria had already worked for them as a part-time nurse (following a car accident involving Puccini) for almost a year, but now entered the Puccini establishment as an indispensable domestic helpmate to the most famous Italian alive.

Puccini's reputation as a ladies' man had some justification, but he seems to have behaved towards the 17-year-old Doria with impeccable restraint. Elvira, on the other hand, after ten years of an illegitimate relationship, was in no mood to tolerate any threat to her position. She began a campaign of deliberate vilification against Doria, accusing her of sexual provocation towards Puccini followed by consumption. She even demanded from the local priest – who had married them in 1904 – that he inform Doria's parents of the child's immorality and expel her from the village. Uncertain of the truth, the priest (who was, incidentally, only partially sighted) refused the girl Holy Communion.

Eventually, Doria could stand it no more and swallowed poison. The poison failed to work properly, and the girl took five days to die, screaming in agony for much of that time. The post-mortem found that Doria was still *virgo intacta*; consequently, Doria's parents brought an action against Elvira for defamation. Elvira lost in the courts, and was

sentenced to five months' imprisonment.

Puccini's relationship with Elvira, never stable, was wrecked. He refused to take her to New York for the première of the recently completed *La fanciulla*. In 1913 he wrote to her: "You sneer when the word 'art' is pronounced; this has always offended me and offends me still." Elsewhere: "You . . . have poisoned my existence . . . You are mad! . . . I am leaving . . ." Of Doria, Puccini wrote to his friend Sybil Seligman: "I can't get her out of my mind – it's a continual torment."

I am not suggesting for one moment that the story of *Turandot* is a thinly disguised version of the story of Doria Manfredi. Far from it. Puccini had known the *commedia dell'arte* play by Count Gozzi, upon which the opera's libretto is based, since 1880, and had actually considered it as a suitable subject for an opera on several occasions before the tragedy of Doria Manfredi. But I do believe that when, in 1919, Puccini wrote to one of his librettists, Simone, suggesting *Turandot* as a subject for an opera, he had by this time recognized in the story elements to which he responded in the most profound way. He plagued Simone and his fellow-librettist Adami with endless changes and embellishments, even scribbling at one point in the margin "no one will ever understand this libretto, except me, because no one else will ever know what it is about". The character of Liu, the servant girl who dies for love, does not exist in the Gozzi play, nor in the first draft of the libretto. She was a character entirely of Puccini's invention.

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being explored through the relationship between Calaf and the Princess Turandot? Was *Turandot* a memory of the partially sighted Roman Catholic priest of Torre del Lago, whose religion taught that Christ had died on the cross to save our souls? Were this all to be so, then the last two scenes of the libretto – which involve the reconciliation between Calaf and Turandot, after the death of Liu – must have been impossible for him to contemplate, since reconciliation in any heart-warming sense between Puccini and Elvira did not, and could not, take place. In other words, Puccini simply could not face the emotional and psychological implications of his own libretto.

Feverishly, he tried to solve his own riddle. It is known that he made at least thirty attempts to write music for the last scenes. But, like the many suitors of Turandot before Calaf, he failed. "All my music that I have written up to now seems to me a farce", he wrote. He hoped that the last duet would be the climax not only of the work but of his life. "Two beings . . . transformed into humans through love. But the memory, perhaps, of Doria and Mimi and Cio-Cio-San, one and the same person in his imagination – except that Doria was not a dream but an immensely painful reality – proved too much."

At the first performance in Milan, Toscanini laid down his baton at the death of Liu, turned to the audience and said: "At this point, Puccini broke off his work. Death on this occasion was stronger than art". Such a melodramatic gesture is not enough. Quite apart from structurally unbalancing the opera, it is a million miles from the centre of Puccini's greatest work. And it is his greatest work: musically innovative, dramatically daring, full of invention, terse almost, certainly exhausting in its intensity, a direct challenge to audience and performers alike.

Was Puccini seeking to exorcise the nightmare of Doria Manfredi in the creation of Liu? Was his own complex relationship with Elvira until the last scenes, the opera's text is permeated with religious guilt



Puccini while working on *Turandot* – "a man whose mind was racked with self-doubt".

and symbolism – Puccini's sister was a nun – above all with a horror of the idea that only through sacrifice can we achieve redemption and forgiveness. Until the death of Liu *Turandot* is a huge and passionate outburst against those who believe in the ideal of true love. Its genius is that it utters such a cry without bitterness or self-pity. It has a tragic dignity befitting a man whose mind was as racked with self-doubt as his body was with

caner, who believed that life's progress was one of innocence laid waste. In this context the last scenes, completed by Alfano, make no sense at all. Puccini hoped that they would be the climax of his creative life.

One final note. Among the earliest enthusiasts of *Turandot* was Igor Stravinsky. He saw it on approximately six occasions during the first year of its life. He was at the time writing his opera-oratorio *Oedipus Rex*.

Dance developments

Scottish Ballet in jeopardy

There is a strong feeling among those people who see the work of all the British dance companies that the Scottish Ballet has been the most successful of them over the past 10 to 15 years. Which makes it especially alarming that, just as the rest are being told by the Arts Council to emulate what the Scottish Ballet pioneered, that company's future has been thrown in jeopardy by lack of funds for new productions.

The company's chairman, Roy H. Thompson, announced in Glasgow yesterday that, unless £105,000 can be raised by sponsorship or other means before the end of next month, the Scottish Ballet's only big new production for 1984, a full-evening *Carmen* by Peter Darrell, will have to be postponed indefinitely. About £15,000 has already been committed, including the cost of a score created by Dominic Muldowney from mostly unfamiliar music of Bizet, and designs by Terry Bartlett. Now the time has come to start making scenery and costumes, but a year of seeking sponsors has produced no result so far.

The Arts Council of Great Britain unfortunately has no say in what happens north of the border. However, it will be busy today with another matter that affects all the British dance companies: whether to support proposals for a national theatre for dance.

John Drummond's report, discussed on this page during January while he was gathering evidence, has been completed and rushed through the Dance Panel quicker than some members would have liked. Today its author personally puts his case to the full council.

The idea of a purpose-built theatre remains a distant hope. More practicable for early action is the conversion of an existing London theatre. Some think the election will light on the Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, with the nearby Astoria providing studios and a smaller auditorium. Most would prefer Drury Lane. But opposition within the profession to any expenditure on bricks and mortar remains surprisingly strong, however short-sighted.

John Percival

What the Bishop actually said...

If you missed the Dimbleby lecture last night, you'll be pleased to know The Listener carries the full text of the Rt Rev David Sheppard's controversial and thought-provoking talk, today.

If you saw it, and heard what he said about poverty which imprisons the spirit and divides the nation, you will already know that it's a lecture worth keeping.

... in THE LISTENER out today!

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ENGLISHMEN'S CASTLES is a new glossy guide to today's high-technology home. Katharine Whitehorn, Fay Maschler, Sir Terence Conran. They're all in it. This week's Punch is a double issue at no extra cost. Just 65p, and you're home.

ENGLISHMEN'S
PUNCH & CASTLES

Galleries

Edward Wolfe

Patrick Seale

One thing about the Cedric Morris exhibition at the Tate is that it inevitably starts one making invidious comparisons: if a figure as admittedly marginal as Morris is deserving of such an imposing commemoration, why not . . . An obvious candidate for such treatment would surely be Edward Wolfe, who died in the same year, 1982, at almost as advanced an age (85), and was without doubt a far better painter than Morris.

Lacking as yet the major retrospective that seems to be called for, we can meanwhile get some idea of Wolfe's range and talents in the show *Edward Wolfe: Early Decorative Art – The Bloomsbury Period*, at the Patrick Seale Gallery, 2 Merton Street, until the end of the month. Wolfe's connexion with Bloomsbury was important in his career: he came over from his native South Africa at the age of 19, studied at the Slade, and got to know Nina Hamnett, by whom he was introduced to Roger Fry and recruited to the Omega Workshops. The present show, despite its title, ranges over his whole career, but in another sense the label is justified, because he continued to be affected throughout his long working life by the particular local adaptation of Post-impressionist colours and formal devices so enthusiastically promoted by Fry and promulgated to the unwilling English through the relatively unquestioned channel of the decorative arts.

Not that Wolfe was ever content to be just a passive follower in the wake of Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell. Some of the early works, notably a couple of very decorative abstractions, certainly come from the same world, but in general he incorporated such elements into his own highly individual and constantly evolving style. His landscapes, for instance, use a much richer palette than Grant's ever did, and at the same time show a quite personal sense of the forms beneath the brilliant surface. His portraits have a similar strength, but also, especially with the women, a delicacy which sometimes suggests Marie Laurencin. And it is impressive, as we move through the Thirties, to see how he can take the measure of such usually overwhelming influences as Picasso and the Mexican muralists, use as much as is useful to him personally, and discard the rest.

The most striking thing about any collection of Wolfe's work is the clear, unfeigned delight he always takes in the world around him, and the glow of pleasure with which he transferred it to canvas: he is, for a British painter, amazingly unprurient and trusting of the senses. But thoughtful too: the combination of sensuality and critical intelligence in his work imperatively demands a closer and longer look.

John Russell Taylor

Theatre

Volpone

The Pit

A portly young bourgeois, first thing in the morning, demands to see his heaped-up wealth. He states he is no merchant, no farmer, no entrepreneur; how did he get it? By running one of the most famous con-tricks in English comedy like a profitable business. Bill Alexander's fascinating production, premiered in Stratford last September, sees the most sinister aspect of *Volpone* as its mundaneness: instead of a wild farce, it is more often a black satirical comedy of the driest sort, holding the mirror up to everyday human greed and gullibility.

Calling matter-of-factly on gout, palsy and catarrh to aid his impersonation of an invalid, Richard Griffiths (who looks more like Henry VIII than ever in his final disguise as a Venetian official) sacrifices the poetic flights and swelling sensuality, but it is worth it for the nasty shock of seeing a *Volpone* so like ourselves. Selling medicine in the mountebank scene, he simply finds his natural profession: advertising. Miles Anderson's spivvy, slick-haired Mosca is a natural accomplice but also a backstreet survival fighter – stung, when the boss overextends their charade for sheer pleasure as an actor and moral critic, to take steps that destroy both of them.



Richard Griffiths: "The nasty shock of seeing a *Volpone* so like ourselves"

Alison Chitty's set of sombre Jacobean paneling, converting into a gloomy and heavily-locked square or a deserted church for conspiratorial get-togethers, constantly suggests the solid interiors where business, not farcical impersonation, takes place. The bribes of the legacy-hunters are simply business ventures, and business tempts them to anything. John Dick's sunken-cheeked Corvino swings his wife's chastity belt like a shopping basket as he

Hallé/Macal

Barbican

Bruckner has arrived at last at the Barbican. If the occasion was rather less auspicious than it might have been, it was a result less of inadequate playing than of Zdenek Macal's under-estimation of what it takes to draw out the particular quality of the "Romantic" in his Fourth Symphony.

Partnering a Sir Politick (Bruce Alexander) who suggests a Foreign Office wiseacre habitually getting things wrong, Gemma Jones parades her crudity, lusts visibly after a black court usher and berates her maid with the ruthlessness of the parvenu: as a pampered

switches from keeping her wife, she is as much a parasite locked up to whoring her for gold. Henry Goodman's equally sartorial Volpone clearly spends his nights sick with professional worry.

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Firmer trend

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, April 9. Dealings End, April 27. Contango Day, April 30. Settlement Day, May 8

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.



FT - ACTUARIES INDICES	
INDUSTRIAL GROUP	518.65 (517.61)
500 SHARE INDEX	569.06 (567.49)
*EARNINGS YIELD	9.58% (9.70%)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.23% (4.24%)
P.E. RATIO (NET)	12.74 (12.71)
ALL SHARE INDEX	524.02 (523.02)
DIVIDEND YIELD	4.41% (4.41%)
estimated	(previous close)

MONEY MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

MONEY MARKETS		FOREIGN EXCHANGES									
Clearing Banks Base Rate 5 1/2%											
Discount Mkt Lessor %											
Overnight: High 5 1/2% Low 5											
Week Fixed: 5 1/2%											
Treasury Bills (Dis %)											
Buying 5 1/2%	Selling 5 1/2%										
2 months 5 1/2%	2 months 5 1/2%										
3 months 5 1/2%	3 months 5 1/2%										
Prime Bank Bills (Dis %) Trades (Dis %)											
1 month 5 1/2%	1 month 5 1/2%										
2 months 5 1/2%	2 months 5 1/2%										
3 months 5 1/2%	3 months 5 1/2%										
6 months 5 1/2%	6 months 5 1/2%										
Local Authority Bonds											
1 month 5 1/2%	7 months 5 1/2%										
2 months 5 1/2%	8 months 5 1/2%										
3 months 5 1/2%	9 months 5 1/2%										
4 months 5 1/2%	10 months 5 1/2%										
5 months 5 1/2%	11 months 5 1/2%										
6 months 5 1/2%	12 months 5 1/2%										
Secondary Mkt. STD Rates (%)											
1 month 5 1/2%	6 months 5 1/2%										
3 months 5 1/2%	12 months 5 1/2%										
Local Authority Market (%)											
3 days 5%	3 months 5%										
7 days 5%	6 months 5%										
1 month 5%	1 year 5%										
Interbank Market (%)											
Overnight: Open 5%	Close 5%										
1 week 5 1/2%	6 months 5 1/2%										
1 month 5 1/2%	9 months 5 1/2%										
Bankers Inv.											
77 5 1/2%	Berry Trst										
163 5 1/2%	Border & Shrs										
142 5 1/2%	Brit Am & Gen										
90 5 1/2%	Brit Assets Trst										
182 5 1/2%	Brit Emp Sec										
28 5 1/2%	Brit Invst										
300 5 1/2%	Brunauer										
66 5 1/2%	Cardinal 'Dif'										
174 5 1/2%	Charter Trust										
68 5 1/2%	Cont & Ind										
47 5 1/2%	Crescent Japan										
322 5 1/2%	Delta Inv										
465 5 1/2%	Deby Trst 'Inc'										
288 5 1/2%	Drayton Cons										
410 5 1/2%	Du Premier										
372 5 1/2%	Dyson Amer Inv										
287 5 1/2%	Edinburgh Inv										
244 5 1/2%	Elec & Gen										
212 5 1/2%	Eog & Int										
211 5 1/2%	Eog & N York										
211 5 1/2%	F & C Alliance										
182 5 1/2%	Family Inv										
186 5 1/2%	First Scot Inv										
245 5 1/2%	First Union Gen										
410 5 1/2%	Fleming Amer										
218 5 1/2%	Fleming Brit										
315 5 1/2%	Fleming Brit For East										
207 5 1/2%	Fleming Japan										
213 5 1/2%	Florin Do S										
105 5 1/2%	Fleming Merc										
206 5 1/2%	Fleming O'Casey										
150 5 1/2%	Fleming Tech										
252 5 1/2%	Fleming Univ										
120 5 1/2%	Foreign & Colonial										
108 5 1/2%	Frost J. & D.										
175 5 1/2%	Gi Japan Inv										
488 5 1/2%	Gen Funds 'Ord'										
600 5 1/2%	De Corp										
167 5 1/2%	Gen Inv & Trst										
132 5 1/2%	Gen Sculpts										
247 5 1/2%	Globe Trust										
235 5 1/2%	Gen Inv & Trst										
160 5 1/2%	Gen Sculpts										
110 5 1/2%	Stock Conv										
30 5 1/2%	Stockder										
26 5 1/2%	Webb J.										
PLANTATIONS											
89 5 1/2%	Barlow Ridges										
114 5 1/2%	Castelfield										
975 5 1/2%	Cons Plant										
116 5 1/2%	Dorranland										
108 5 1/2%	Highlands & Low										
69 5 1/2%	Hongkong										
575 5 1/2%	Malakoff										
82 5 1/2%	Majedie										
490 5 1/2%	Moran										
91 5 1/2%	Rowe Evans Inv										
MISCELLANEOUS											
42 5 1/2%	Essex Wtr 3.5%										
91 5 1/2%	Gl. Ktnn Tel										
122 5 1/2%	Milford Docks										
25 5 1/2%	Necco Inv										
25 5 1/2%	Sunderland Wtr										
UNLISTED SECURITIES											
475 5 1/2%	Air Call										
113 5 1/2%	Berkley Exp										
36 5 1/2%	Big Resources										
248 5 1/2%	Cent Ind TV Inv										
116 5 1/2%	Cornell Bldgs										
68 5 1/2%	East Inv										
68 5 1/2%	Fair Housing										
114 5 1/2%	Gen (Cecil)										
146 5 1/2%	Godwin Warren										

(a) $\text{CaM. 9-10}^{\text{th}}$
months. 10-11.

BREWERIES AND DISTILLERIES

171	137	Do 5	149	8.0	1
172	138	Whitbread Inv	158	7.9	2
196	218	Wolverhampton	240	9.8	3

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY
Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

A lucky hit on the borrowing target

Public borrowing in 1983-84 was remarkably close to target - £9.8 billion compared with the £10 billion predicted by the Treasury last autumn and again at Budget time. But this unusual accuracy was something of a fluke. Without the suspension of Britain's £16m EEC budget rebate due last month, the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) would have been about £9.3 billion, slap in line with City estimates.

Not that the City was particularly pleased with yesterday's figures, which showed higher than expected March borrowing of £1.97 billion. Gilt yields were accordingly marked down 2%, but the markets found it hard to get excited over past history. Nothing in the figures upsets the general consensus that the Government's £7.2 billion borrowing target for 1984-85 is well within reach - especially since the overdue EEC rebate will now come through in this financial year.

The Government can afford itself a gentle pat on the back. There was no repetition of last year's eleventh-hour spending scramble by government departments, helped perhaps by new rules which permit some carryover of unspent allocations. Spending over the year was 7.75 per cent higher than in 1983-84, a bigger increase than the 5.5 per cent planned, but a good deal less than was feared last autumn.

State industries finished the year having borrowed a remarkably low £100m (after grants and subsidies), compared with the £700m predicted at Budget time. Officials are said to be pretty relaxed about the course of central government spending in the present year, now planned to rise 5.5 per cent, marginally more than inflation.

But town hall spending remains a headache. Last year local councils overspent their budgets by about £1 billion, forcing the Government to give them £600m extra this year to help keep services going. Even so, they will feel the squeeze; the Budget Red Book shows an increase of only 2.5 per cent in their total spending (including interest) in 1984-85, compared with actual spending in 1983-84, which means a sizable cut in real resources. Already it seems clear they will need at least another £800m. By the end of the year, with agriculture costing ever more and the social security budget inexorably rising with the dole queues, ministers may be only to glad of their £2.75 billion spending reserve.

The Prudential thinks big

Are Britain's insurance companies, considered one of groups most vulnerable to the winds of change ruffling Britain's financial services, likely to form links with the mighty clearing banks and building societies?

This was the intriguing thought to emerge yesterday from a speech given to The International Bar Association by Mr Brian Corby, chief executive of Britain's largest insurer, the Prudential Corporation, who is widely considered to be the country's most dynamic insurance chief. Significantly, Mr Corby drew attention to the financial industries of South Africa and Canada, which are dominated by combined groups of banks, insurance companies, building societies and security dealers.

Britain's insurance companies have been warned by the Government, in no uncertain terms, to expect competition. The building societies want to move in, the Citicorp of the United States intends

£21m increase for Hawker

• Hawker Siddeley Group, the international electrical and engineering company, has increased pretax profits from £116.2m to £137.5m for the year to December 31, 1983. Turnover also increased from £1,407m to £1,457m. The final dividend of 7.1p makes 11p for the year compared with 9.8p last time. *Tempus*, page 18

• S Pearson & Son, owner of the *Financial Times*, Penguin Books and the Royal Doulton china group, announced a £17.5m increase in pre-tax profits to £77.4m. This was more than expected and the company's shares rose 37p to 538p. A final dividend of 9p is being recommended, raising the total for the year by a quarter to 14p. *Tempus*, page 18

• Northern Engineering Industries yesterday announced an 8 per cent rise in pretax profits to £4.7m on sales of £872m (£867m). The dividend is raised from 4.75p to 5.25p, and the group reported a sharp improvement in group liquidity and a continuing strong order book. *Tempus*, page 18

• ADWEST GROUP: Interim 1.5p (1.4p adj) per share. (figures in £000) Pretax profit £6.55 (2,401) for half year to December 31, 1983 Tax 1.173 (791). Minorities 33 (20). Extraordinary debt nil (224). Shares 148 down.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am \$380.30 pm \$380.20 close \$380.00-\$380.50 (£267.25-267.75)
New York (last): \$380.50 Krugerrand (per coin): \$392.50 (£275.276)
Sovereigns (new): \$89.25-\$90.25 (£62.75-63.50)
*Excludes VAT

to play a hand, and there are harbingers of movement and merger throughout the City.

As Mr Corby rightly points out, the setting up of a new intermediary insurance business increases, but does radically alter, the nature of the competition. He is worried about the emergence of all-embracing financial groups offering their own insurance products through their own retail outlets.

Mr Corby agrees that there are too many insurance companies and building societies today, but is fearful that after the dust settles there may be too few. And he questions whether a building society could fairly claim that its own insurance products were the best when insisting that a customer for housing finance needs insurance.

Interestingly, the Building Societies Association has recently been making conciliatory noises about establishing "new relations" with the insurance companies that provide them with some £250m of commission a year. Obviously, the building societies pose the greatest threat to insurance companies and to the clearing banks retail operations.

At present, the insurance companies and building societies are restricted by law from moving outside of their own areas of activity. But that can change, and quickly. New technology, Mr Corby says, "has now developed from merely helping us to do our business more effectively to enabling us to do other businesses as well at little additional cost. The potential for the future is clearly enormous".

Mr Corby argued that it may be appropriate to extend Professor Gower's investor protection recommendations into a broader review of the financial services

And - perhaps unsurprisingly - he concluded that there was a need to put the various financial institutions on a more equal footing, "particularly where their areas of activity overlap".

Trafalgar House listens to P & O

These days we tend to regard annual meetings as little more than a day out for the small shareholders. But yesterday Mr Nigel Broackes, chairman of Trafalgar House, and Mr Ian Fowler, his company secretary, felt it was worth their while to exercise their rights and hear Mr Jeffrey Sterling's words of wisdom at the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation company's meeting.

Mr Broackes wanted to hear what Mr Sterling had to say about P & O in last week's letter, responding to Trafalgar's reservations about the P & O accounts.

Before the meeting Mr Broackes said he was there to listen, not to speak. After he had listened and not spoken and the 90-minute meeting had ended he said he was still not entirely satisfied.

Mr Sterling, he said first, that some extra corporation tax would be paid over the next three years; second, that there would be no need to establish a deferred tax account out of existing stockholders' funds; and, third, that there could be a need for P & O's associates to make a provision P & O's share, he said, is unlikely to be greater than £20m. When told of Mr Broackes' continuing reservations, Mr Sterling said no-one could possibly clarify the true position until the Finance Bill goes through. That, however, is not likely until July - several weeks after the date on which Trafalgar House is entitled to renew its bid for P & O.

Pensions tax plea

By Ronald Faux

The Government was yesterday urged not to remove tax relief on contributions to pension funds. Mr J. A. Edison, chairman of the Scottish Life Assurance Company said in Edinburgh at the first annual meeting of the company to be attended by the press in more than a century, that too often press rumours carried the authenticity of a leak and when it received support from no less than the Governor of the Bank of England, it could not be ignored.

It is being argued that the tax relief given on contributions to pension funds is a special privilege which should be swept away in the interests of giving the individual greater freedom to invest his savings as he wishes. This argument overlooks the fact that an employer may choose to pay pensions to retired employees out of current income.

"I urge the Chancellor not to take action which would destroy the occupational pension schemes

expected to be in the 270p to 280p range, compared with the minimum tender price of 250p.

• THE NATIONAL Oil Corporation in its first full year of operation in the sole role of oil trader has achieved the Government's target of making a small profit while still being able to control North Sea oil prices.

BNOC, which by law handles

the sale of at least 51 per cent of North Sea oil, handled an average of 13 million barrels of oil a day and had an annual turnover of £8 billion. Its after-tax profit was £300,000.

• AMERICAN EXPRESS, the US financial group, last night denied that it was selling Fireman's Fund, its troubled insurance subsidiary.

• THE ATTEMPTS BY Britain's clearing banks to buy into Stock Exchange firms have been cleared by the trade department on the advice of the Office of Fair Trading.

The verdict against a refer-

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY APRIL 18 1984

Barclay twins recoup £44m with Cameron brewery sale

By Derek Pain

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the McEwan and Younger group which has for long sought to extend its retail operations, is to take over J. W. Cameron and Co, the Hartlepool Brewery which has 540 public houses and off-licences, it was announced yesterday.

The deal, subject to Office of Fair Trading clearance, valued Cameron at £44.5m. It was clinched against strong bidding from other interested breweries.

Cameron last changed hands only five months ago when the hotel-owning Barclay twins - David and Frederick - paid a reputed £48m for the parent Ellerman Lines brewing to shipping group.

After the Cameron sale Ellerman still embraces Tollemae and Cobbold Breweries of East Anglia and extensive shipping interests.

It was the heavily-losing



David Nickson: handing over nine of his hotels

shipping fleet which forced Ellerman, a private company owned by charitable trusts, to seek a buyer. Mr David Barclay said yesterday: "The shipping losses have now been stopped and we are heading for profit this year."

The brothers decided to sell

Cameron because a Northern brewery did not fit in with its interests. Part of the cash proceeds will be used to develop their other activities, including the revitalised shipping line. They also intend to extend Tollemae and would like to acquire a southern brewery which would dovetail with the East Anglian group.

The takeover lifts the Scottish and Newcastle pubs and off-licences chain to 2,200. This is low compared with other major brewing groups and Scottish and Newcastle, which itself has often been the subject of takeover speculation, it needs more tied outlets to give more marketing muscle in its battle for "free" trade outlets such as clubs and supermarkets.

Scottish and Newcastle, is Britain's largest "free" trade brewery. Its own pubs account for only 17 per cent of its output. In the past few years the group's trading outlook has

improved dramatically. For the current year City analysts are forecasting profits of up to £55m.

The group, headed by Mr David Nickson, is paying £35m cash for Cameron and handing nine of its Thistle hotels, valued at £29m, to the Barclay brothers. It has raised the cash by placing shares among institutional investors at 112p each. The shares fell yesterday 2p to 116½p.

The share placing is conditional on the takeover going through. Cameron produced profits of £3.7m last year, compared with only £17.000 in the previous year when it was hit by a long-running strike. Its peak profit of £4.4m was achieved in 1979.

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• The opening round in the hard-fought legal battle for control of another northern brewery, T & R Theakston, has gone to the Lancashire brewery

Matthew Brown & Co.

New home loans rise to 10.50%

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

Ford of Britain, which has recently announced investment plans totalling more than £280m, yesterday revealed pre-tax profit figures for last year of £14.2m (down £50m) was badly affected by further extraordinary charges of £245m, leading to a loss for the year of £103m. These charges are a £200m provision to meet deferred taxes arising from the Budget's proposed changes in capital allowances and corporation tax, and £45m to cover factory closure costs.

The company said that while 1983 was a year when the whole motor industry was facing competitive pressures, Ford car sales in the UK rose to a record 518,048, an increase of 43,856. Dagenham and Halewood produced 54 per cent of the Fords sold in Britain, while

the new rate will apply to mortgages of up to £40,000. Above that the rate will be 11.5 per cent.

But for first-time buyers the rate is sweetened by a rebate in the first year equal to 1/4 per cent of the amount advanced - reducing the effective rate paid to 10.25 per cent. The rebate will be available as soon as the mortgage agreement is signed and borrowers can use it to offset repayments in any month they choose, though most are expected to take it straightforward.

The Nationwide Building Society, Britain's third biggest, is to raise its mortgage rate for new customers from 10.25 per cent to 10.50 per cent from May 1. Existing borrowers are unaffected.

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The Nationwide has reluctantly decided to follow most other societies in charging more for large loans, which it says has given them an edge in competing for savings.

It announced yesterday that its bonus accounts are to be replaced by a new "Bonus 7" account - paying 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate of 6.25 per cent on a minimum investment of £500. Money can be withdrawn at seven days' notice, or in demand with the loss of only seven days' interest.

US rates

Bank prime rate 12.00

Fed funds 10%

Treasury long bond 95½-95¾

ECB Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average

reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

Boost for Rowntree

Shares of Yorkshire-based Rowntree Mackintosh surged 26p to a record 284p amid growing speculation of an imminent bid. More than 1 million shares changed hands in active trade with two Swiss groups Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard tipped as the most likely contenders.

Nestlé, which last week revealed plans for its first issue in 10 years, was quick to deny the speculation. But a spokesman for Jacob Suchard refused to comment.

At last night's close Rowntree was valued at nearly £400m, but dealers estimate that a bid, if it is to succeed, would need to be between 350p and 400p a share.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1110.2 up 4.8
FT Index: 878.8 up 4.6
FT Gilts: 82.03 down 0.04
Bargains: 22,534
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 113.51 down 0.06
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1165.10 up 4.82
Tokyo Nikkei: 10,500 down 40.40
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 1,088.12 up 12.64
Amsterdam: 172.3 down 0.5
Sydney: AO Index 763.0 down 1.63
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 1031.50 up 6.0
Brussels: General Index 154.37 down 0.26
Paris: CAC Index 171.3 up 0.3
Zurich: SKA General 31.50 up 0.6

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling: \$1.4200 down 50s
Index 79.8 unchanged
DM 3.7450 down 0.0080
FF 11.5562 up 0.0075
Yen 320.00 down 0.0075
Dollar: £1.27.5 down 0.1
DM 2.6425 up 0.0085
NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling: \$1.4125
Dollar: £1.2545

INTERNATIONAL

ECU £0.595131
SDR £0.742674

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates
Bank base rates 8½%
Finance houses base rate 9½%
Discount market loans week fixed 8½-6½%
3 month interbank 8½%-8¾%
Euro-currency rates:

3 month dollar 10½-11
3 month DM 5½%-5¾
3 month FF 13½%-13

US rates

Comfort Hotels doubles profits

By Jeremy Warner

Comfort Hotels International more than doubled its profits last year.

On sales up from £26.5m to £32.3m, pretax profits rose from £1m to £2.4m. Included in the results is a first time contribution of £200,000 to £300,000 from the Londonerry Mayfair which was acquired last March.

The chairman, Mr Henry Edwards, said the company was confidently expected to continue its progress and would be recommending a final dividend of 5.52p lifting the total for the year from 0.63p to 7.4p.

Strikes. Restaurants, the group's separately quoted USM offshoot, made pretax profits of £791,000 against £659,000 last year. It is paying a final dividend of 1.1p making a total for the year of 1.6p.

Contracts have been exchanged for Stripes to purchase a 60 per cent interest in Croissants de Provence (French Franchises) to be satisfied by the issue of 85,106 new shares. It has an option to buy the remaining shareholding in due course.

Croissants de Provence has 110 mainly takeaway outlets in London which it supplies with French croissants and pastries from its own bakery. It is forecasting profits of not less than £30,000 for 1985.

Comfort Hotels said that all the indications were that the progress recorded in 1983 would be continued into the current year through a broadly-based improvement in occupancy and average room rate. With better occupancy levels, Comfort was able to reduce its degree of discounting last year. And this month it put through a series of increases in prices which averaged 7 per cent.

Comfort Lodge, the company jointly owned with British Land, has made progress in realizing its aim of having five lodges operating by the end of 1985. Construction of the first hotel, which aims to provide three-star value at a two-star price, will start shortly at Swanside and is due to open in the Spring of next year.

The Abingdon Room which is a new addition to the Rainbow Suite and Kensington Exhibition Centre opened on schedule this year and has already been chosen as the venue for a number of exhibitions over the next two years.

A recent revaluation of the freehold of the Park Plaza, Viceroy and Charles Dickens Hotels in London has produced a surplus over book value of £6.5m.

Davylle's Ice Cream, which Comfort hopes to float on the unlisted securities market in a few years, continued to make progress last year.

Scottish Life Chairman's Statement

Extracts for Year Ended December 1983

1983 NEW BUSINESS
* New life annual premiums associated with mortgages up 88% on last year.
* Group single premiums up 7% on last year.
* Total assets now exceed £750 million.

UNIT-LINK
* The Company has entered the unit-linked market with five new contracts offering links to ten funds.
* Separate fund force has been established and already well in excess of £10 million has been invested.

THE FUTURE
* In spite of untimely removal of Life Assurance Premium Relief, the Company is confident that it can continue to offer competitive contracts in the areas of savings and family protection.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Swiss bid talk lifts Rowntree to record

By Michael Clark

The gnomes of Zurich have acquired a taste for shares of Rowntree Mackintosh and were behind yesterday's flurry of activity which saw the shares up 26p to a record 284p.

It now looks as though a bid for the Yorkshire-based Yorkie-to-Kat sweet manufacturer may be just around the corner with the Swiss companies, which claim to know a thing or two about chocolate, leading the assault.

At last night's close Rowntree was capitalized at nearly £400m and dealers were talking of a bid of between 350p and 400p a share. The Rowntree board broke off from yesterday's annual meeting with shareholders to deny any rumours it had already received an approach.

A spokesman said: "The board is not aware of any reason for the activity in the share price." Favourites to make a bid are the Swiss food group's Nestlé and Jacobs Suchard. Only last week, Nestlé announced plans for a rights issue to launch a series of acquisitions.

Spring is a strange time to be discussing Christmas but it is all they talk about these days round at Park Foods, Britain's largest distributor of Christmas hamper sales. Sales are expected to climb from 500,000 hampers to nearly 700,000 this year which has enabled the share price to rally 70p - just 2p short of last year's tender price. The board may now use this renewed confidence in the shares to launch a series of acquisitions.

It's first in 10 years - despite already sitting on a strong balance sheet.

Last night a spokesman for Nestlé said from its headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland, there was "no truth in the rumours".

In Zurich, a spokesman for Jacobs Suchard refused to comment on the suggestions it was preparing to launch a bid.

Dealers estimate that more than a million shares in Rowntree changed hands yesterday and the bulk of these will have found their way across the Alp.

The overnight rally on Wall Street paved the way for a firmer performance on the London market after Monday's shake-out - the worst in nearly two and a half years. Prices were marked higher at the outset helped by some good figures from Hawker Siddeley, up 36p at 453p, after 461p, and takeover speculation.

However, the fast approaching Easter break, tomorrow's NLM delegate meeting, rising interest rates and the long three

days in 10 years - despite already sitting on a strong balance sheet.

Among leading industrials BTR lost 3p to 473p, while Beecham added 2p at 323p, Blue Circle 2p at 413p, BOC Group 8p at 287p, Bowater 1p at 323p, GEC 3p at 184, Glaxo 15p at 875p and Tate & Lyle 3p at 413p.

Even ICI managed to put in a late spurt helped by renewed buying from the US where the shares remain a firm favourite with investors. The shares closed 14p dearer at 608p.

There was selective support for BTR, and Phoenix, up 4p at 470p, after recent speculative support.

Among leading industrials

bank failed to hold on to their early leads as nervous selling developed. Lloyd's Bank lost 3p to 619p, after broker Wood Mackenzie decided they were no longer worthy of a buy recommendation.

Wood Mackenzie says the shares have performed extremely well since the figures and budget. But uncertainty over Latin American debts over the next few months could prove unsettling.

As a result it is now only recommending the shares as a hold.

Barclays lost 3p to 479p along with National Westminster, 3p lighter at 652p. Only Midland closed up on the day after news of last week's losses from Crocker in the US with the price adding 5p at 369p.

The leading insurance companies spent another lacklustre day as the sector endured a further welter of bearish circulators. Analysts recommend investors to take profits in Commercial Union, down 3p to 513p.

Waterford Glass rose 13p to a new high of 44p following news of an approach which could lead to an offer being made for the issued share capital of the Irish crystal cut-glass manufacturer. At this level Waterford is valued at £12.9m. Crest Holdings owns just over 20 per cent of the shares and is tipped as the likely bidder. Irish Life Assurance also holds between 5 per cent and 10 per cent of the issued equity.

Arthur Henriques, the textile group, has also received an approach and responded with a rise of 7p to 39p, after 45p. The group at this level is worth £1.36m and its biggest shareholder remains the ITC Pension Fund with 10 per cent of the shares.

On a timely note, broker Montagu Loebel Stanley has been taking a look at the miner's strike and those companies most affected by the action. AAH, down 1p at 11p, should be bought on the first signs of an end to the strike, or further weakness. Dobson Park, 1p lower at 344p, is also worthy of a buy recommendation and there are hold recommendations for Dowty Group, unchanged at 126p, and Burnell & Hallamshire, down 1p at 180p. The only sell is Hargreaves Group, 1p shy at 83p.

In shipping John I Jacobs sold 1p to 53p after Jacobs and Partners announced they had sold 1.5 million shares reducing their total holding from 6.51 per cent to 3.97 per cent of the total.

The big High Street clearing

at 223p, and Phoenix, up 4p at 470p, after recent speculative support.

Among leading industrials BTR lost 3p to 473p, while Beecham added 2p at 323p, Blue Circle 2p at 413p, BOC Group 8p at 287p, Bowater 1p at 323p, GEC 3p at 184, Glaxo 15p at 875p and Tate & Lyle 3p at 413p.

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Among leading industrials

Shel added 3p to 643p along with Trident 3p to 333p, Ultramar 5p to 692p, Weeks Bermuda 1p to 385p, Bristle 5p to 265p, while Burmah closed unchanged.

Equity turnover on April 16 was £283.012m (23.014). The total number of British and Irish shares traded was 164.9m. Gilt bargains totalled 3.871.

Border & Southern is 11% per cent, and the issue price is 98.19 per cent. The stock rates a 1.2 per cent premium on the comparable gilt-edged issue. Dealings start at 2pm on April 19.

Under new Inland Revenue regulations announced in the Budget, debenture stock, but not convertibles, are free of capital gains tax, if held for a year and a day. The new tax moves bring corporate debt into line with gilt-edged stock issued by the Government and its moves to open up the market in funded corporate debt.

A de Zoete & Bevan spokesman said that there had been no difficulty in placing the stock.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

The pound held steady throughout in continued light trading ahead of the holiday weekend, closing almost unchanged at 1.4205 (1.4210) against the dollar, while its wider international value ended at 79.8 (same).

Sterling tended to harden late in the day in step with a firming dollar, and managed small improvements over the Deutsche Mark, 3.7550 (3.7500), Swiss franc 3.1150 (3.1100), and French franc 11.5525 (11.5350).

The dollar repeated its recent narrowly mixed pattern for much of the session before edging higher in the final hour on support from New York.

Period rates held steady throughout a day of low activity. Dealers said the easier state of nearby funds offset continuing worries about US money trends and the miners' dispute.

Business was concentrated at the short end of the market. One month certificates of deposit were bought at 83/4 per cent, having been issued in some at the outset.

Overnight money interbank hovered in the 8 1/2 to 8 1/4 per cent region, but, in the final stages, dropped to about 6 per cent before climbing again to 9 per cent.

Local authorities were quiet.

Fisons to take over Spanish company

Fisons has received the Spanish Government's approval to acquire Roncales, a Zaragoza pharmaceutical company, which trades as Laboratorios Casen, for £1.6m cash. Casen markets a range of medical specialty products.

After the completion of the necessary formalities, Fisons will construct a new pharmaceutical factory with sterile finishing and chemical processing facilities.

The Fisons chief executive, Mr J. S. Kerridge, said that the acquisition would provide Fisons pharmaceutical division with a sound base from which to expand its activities in Spain.

This also completes the network of pharmaceutical subsidiaries in leading European markets.

In brief

• **SPONG HOLDING** (Figures in £'000). Sales 1,767.8 (1,203.8) for 1983. Pretax profit 36.7 (loss 101.9). Extraordinary credits nil (104.8). EPS 0.33p (loss 2.8p).

Results were achieved by improved performance from the existing businesses and by a first time contribution from Bacchane which was acquired last April and Brigade Products acquired last October.

• **HARRIET THREE WELL**.

The Harriet Three Well, off shore Western Australia, has recovered high quality oil at a maximum stabilized rate of 3,276 barrels a day in a drill stem test through a 7 1/2-inch choke. The test was 1.63 million cubic feet of gas.

• **BRITISH AEROSPACE**

Sir Austin Pearce, the chairman, has told shareholders that the year has started with money in the bank and with ample facilities from banks to meet funding requirements, including its share of the A320 programme.

• **BRISTOL OIL AND MINERALS**

Acceptances for Bristol to acquire Osprey have been received in respect of 1,071,794 ordinary shares (82.43 per cent). Accordingly, Bristol now controls 1,206,795 existing ordinary shares (992.82 per cent).

• **TARMAC**

Tarmac construction has acquired a 70.84 per cent shareholding in Pasco Engineering of Harrow for £1.755m. Pasco provides management, consulting and engineering services to oil, gas, petrochemical and related industries.

• **JACKSONS**

The company has agreed to sell land having a balance sheet value of £425,000, payable in cash. The purchaser is a private company and the completion is due on April 27.

• **T. C. HARRISON**

Final 1.68p making 2.3p (2.2p adj) for 1983. (Figures in £'000). Turnover 92,688 (81,440). Trading profit 3,699 (3,155). Interest 488 (135). Pretax profit 3,211 (3,020). Tax 303 (1,042). Extraordinary charge 1,740 (nil). EPS 12.89p (8.77p adj).

• **B. S. G. INTERNATIONAL**

Dividend 0.65p making 1p for 1983. Figures in £'000. Turnover 288,300 (258,200). Trading profit 7,467 (3,422) being vehicle distribution 3,193 (1,992). Manufacturing 4,295 (1,430). Interest 3,267 (1,291 loss). Tax 522 (609). Minorities 218 (299). Extraordinary debt 359 (1,696).

• **HARRISON COWLEY (HOLDINGS)**

Final 2.95 making 4.35p (4.25p) for 1983. (Figures in £'000) Turnover 20,694 (17,642). Pretax profit 710 (557). Tax 345 (302). EPS 7.3p (5.1p).

• **HAWEY GROUP**

Hawey has completed the purchase of 77.9 per cent of Fraser Henderson for £190,389 to be satisfied by the issue of 226,652 ordinary shares credited as fully paid and payment of £8,629 cash.

• **STEEL BROTHERS HOLDINGS**

Final 9p for 1983, pay July 2 (figures in £'000). Group turnover 119,562 (128,898). Pretax profit 11,061 (10,016), after interest 1,890 (4,173), and depreciation 4,107 (3,819). Tax 3,671 (3,098). Minorities 669 (306). Extraordinary credits 5,175 (debt 186).

Period rates held steady throughout a day of low activity. Dealers said the easier state of nearby funds offset continuing worries about US money trends and the miners' dispute.

Business was concentrated at the short end of the market.

One month certificates of deposit were bought at 83/4 per cent, having been issued in some at the outset.

Overnight money interbank

hovered in the 8 1/2 to 8 1/4 per cent region, but, in the final stages, dropped to about 6 per cent before climbing again to 9 per cent.

Local authorities were quiet.

TEMPUS

Hawker Siddeley set for acquisition trail

S. Pearson & Son

S Pearson & Son duly rewarded its growing City fan club yesterday with news of much better than expected 29 per cent leap in pretax profits for last year. Despite the nine-week *Financial Times* dispute last summer which is estimated to have cost £6m profits roared ahead to £77.4m.

The real action appears to have

APPOINTMENTS

Sedgwick names managing director

Sedgwick: UK: Mr W. R. White-Cooper has become managing director.

Carless, Capel and Leonard: Mr Jack Barton and Dr Eric Bassford have joined the board.

The Scottish Lion Insurance Company: Mr J. R. Charman, general manager and marine underwriter, together with Mr T. J. Newson, assistant general manager and non-marine underwriter, have been made directors.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland: Professor W. C. C. Morrison is the new president.

Estates Property Investments Company: Mr D. R. Poole has become managing director and Mr D. V. Udall has been appointed financial director. Both are existing members of the board.

Theodore Goddard & Co: Christine Lerry, Mr John Kelleher, Mr James Harman, Claire Meltzer and Mr Hamish Porter will become partners on May 1.

Gray Mackenzie & Company: Mr E. S. Hunter has been appointed chief executive.

Watts Blake, Bearn and Company: Sir Ian Heathcote Amory has been joined to the board in place of Mr D. L. Fox who has resigned after serving as a director for more than 20 years.

Foreign & Colonial Management: Mr Oliver Dawson has become chairman. He succeeds Mr Derek Baer who will remain on the board.

The Second Alliance Trust: Mr Robert C. Smith has become chairman in place of Mr George E. Dunn who retires from the chair and as a director of the company.

Gerald Eve & Co: Mr Hilary M. Eve has retired from the company. Margaret E. Thomas has retired as an associate and Mr Reginald A. France retires as an associate on May 1. Mr Michael R. Sharp, Glasgow office, Mr Anthony M. Chase and Mr Simon W. B. Chalwin are appointed associates.

Independent Computer Engineering: Mr Brian Johnson has been appointed executive chairman.

Fleetcare: Mr Bernard Lott has become managing director of the company which is the automotive care and maintenance division of the National Freight Consortium.

Omics Faulkner: The following have joined the board: Mr William B. Close as works director, Mr Kenneth Lobb, commercial director; Mr David J. Cooke, production director, and Mr David J. Worrall as personnel director.

Federated Housing: Mr M. K. Holloway has been made a non-executive director.

Solicitors' Law Stationery Society: Mr J. A. Holland has been appointed a director.

Merser Docks and Harbour: Mr James Fitzpatrick, managing director and chief executive, has been appointed chairman. He will be succeeded as managing director and chief executive by the present port services director, Mr Trevor Furlong. The appointments take effect from June 16 and are prompted by the retirement of Sir John Page after four years as chairman.

Engineering Polymers: Mr Huw Radley has been made managing director of the company.

Batleyer Bathrooms: Mr R. R. Miles has become a director.

Tetra Pak British Isles: Mr Bertil Hagman has been appointed executive chairman and managing director; Mr Keith Paterson becomes deputy managing director; Mr Alastair Napier, marketing director; Mr Peter Steinthal, finance director; Mr Olof Andersson, production director; Mr Norman Stewart, technical director; Mr Hakan Nilsson, company secretary; Mr Charles Aiken, general manager, branch office, England and Wales.

Set rail

Economic Commentary by Tim Congdon

Monetary history could repeat itself if miners keep echoing 1970s

If there is anything to be said in favour of Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, it is that he has made people think back to the early 1970s. They were not the most glorious years in British history. In economic policy, the period is mostly remembered for the collapse of Mr Edward Heath's dash for growth in 1974. The miners' strike destroyed an incomes policy which the Conservative Government had thought could control inflation.

History never repeats itself exactly. The economic situation now is in most respects very different from that at any stage in the early 1970s. But there are some parallels and they are not to be found only in industrial relations, but also in monetary policy. Some recent trends in credit and money growth are similar to those seen at the beginning of the Heath-Barber boom.

Much of the interest in a comparison between the two periods lies in the lesson it gives on how to conduct monetary policy. In 1972 and 1973, there was an active debate between two schools of economic comment.

The first argued that the economy was not expanding fast enough, unemployment remained rather high by the standards of previous cycles, while narrow money measures, notably M1, were increasing at moderate rates.

The second, which was led by Mr Peter Jay, then the Economics Editor of *The Times*, and Professor Alan Day of the London School of Economics, said that the boom was unsustainable. In their view, money supply growth was clearly excessive and would result in much higher inflation. They focused on broad money measures particularly M3, to justify their pessimism.

We all know now which group was right. Inflation went above 25 per cent in 1975, while national output, after a 7 per cent jump in 1973, fell by 1.6 per cent in 1974 and a further 1.1 per cent in 1975. The broad-money followers proved more successful in predicting events than the narrow-money school.

The disagreement between them may have seemed theological and arcane, but it proved to be of great importance in understanding the social and political crisis which Britain was about to experience.

The new relevance of the 1972-73 debate arises because narrow and broad money have started to grow at different rates. The provisional March money supply numbers illustrate the pattern. The narrow-money measures are rising moderately with the latest Treasury favourite, M₂, behaving particularly well. But the growth of broad money and credit is accelerating.

The acceleration of broad money growth is less obvious with sterling M3 than with PSL2. As sterling M3 includes only bank deposits, its growth is regulated by the expansion of bank credit. But PSL2 includes both bank and building society deposits, and so it can grow more buoyantly.

Over the last 12 months, mortgage lending has steadily gathered momentum. In consequence, PSL2 growth has increased. In the year to March, PSL2 rose by 12 per cent, in the three months to March, at an annual rate of 15 per cent, and in March itself, at an annual rate of almost 20 per cent. The recent rates of change are far above the official target ranges for either broad or narrow money.

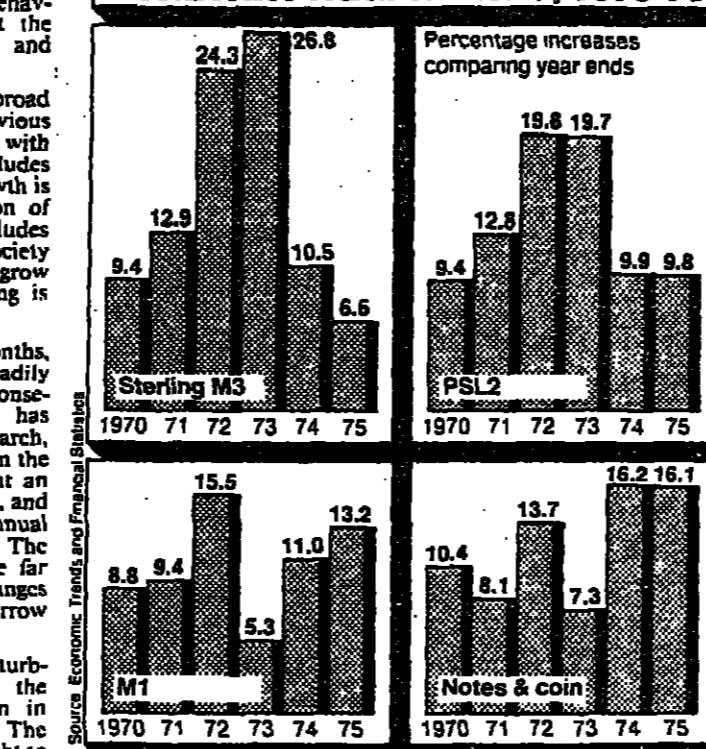
The interesting and disturbing point here is that the Heath-Barber boom began in very much the same way. The starting point is often thought to have been the 1972 Budget. In fact, it can be dated to the middle of 1971. Bank rate was cut from 7 to 6 per cent on April 1 and then to 5 per cent on September 2.

These interest rate reductions were soon followed by an explosion in building society lending. The quarterly figure for the societies' net advances, which had averaged £196m in 1969 and £272m in 1970, exceeded £450m in the second half of 1971, bank rate was cut from 6.50 to 6.00 per cent in 1972 and early 1973. The growth of PSL2 accelerated as well, reaching almost 20 per cent a year.

The upturn in mortgage credit created a very active housing market and was associated with strong consumer spending. The general economic improvement, accompanied by the relaxation of bank lending restrictions in the Competition and Credit Control reforms, stimulated companies' demand for credit. In 1972, M3 leapt by 11 per cent and in 1973 by 28 per cent.

It was numbers like these which caused Mr Jay and Professor Day to ring the alarm bell. They ignored the behaviour of the narrow money aggregates, which gave a much more sombre and complacent message. At the time, M1 was the only measure which people looked at closely. Its growth did accelerate

GROWTH RATES OF MAIN MONETARY AGGREGATES, 1970-75



from 9% per cent in 1971 to 15% per cent in 1972, but then slipped to only 5% per cent in 1973.

The reason for this failing is not hard to seek. M1 is dominated by current accounts, and both current accounts and the note and coin issue are used for transactions. People can make current accounts suit their needs by switching money out of deposit accounts, while the note issue can be adjusted in the

same way by cashing cheques. In jargon, narrow money is "demand-determined".

In other words, the level of M₁ and M₂ depends on the money value of the transactions people want to carry out and that, in turn, depends on today's inflation. So it was not surprising that when price

inflation rate. It does not anticipate events, such as the rate of inflation in a year or two.

With unemployment at three million and still rising, it will be a long time before serious inflationary pressures return.

To highlight the risks of excessive credit and money growth may therefore seem premature. An early interest rate rise would, indeed, be unnecessary masochism in present circumstances.

But the Heath-Barber boom demonstrates how easy it would be to misread the monetary data and postpone measures until they are overdue. Despite reviving economic activity, inflation may stay down and be associated with low growth of narrow money, including the M₂ aggregate which now receives so much attention in the Treasury (if nowhere else).

Meanwhile, credit and broad money might be expanding at rates incompatible with long-term inflation control.

Could there be another monetary debate in 1985 and 1986 comparable to that in 1972 and 1973? It seems quite likely. If Mr Scargill is still on the rampage, the industrial and financial spenzy will be remarkably similar to that of a decade ago.

The author is economics partner at stockbrokers L. Mervell & Co.

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Rangers must keep their chickens on ice for another summer

New York's annual binge of beer and loathing in the Garden

New York

It is that time of year in New York when ice-hockey fans sneak into Madison Square Gardens with plastic chickens and fishheads secreted up their shirts. When marijuana smoke wafts from the Garden stairwells as thick as Los Angeles smog. When businessmen sneak out of diners at the Waldorf Astoria to sit in their BMWs, tune in the radio and thump the steering wheel in a mime of excitement. It is the time, in other words, when the Rangers meet the Islanders in the National Hockey League play-offs.

The enmity between the two New York clubs is one of the world's outstanding sporting rivalries. The esteem in which the average Stretford Emery hold Manchester City is nothing compared to the hatred that Rangers fans harbour for the Isles. A volley of rotting fish and chickens greets their nemesis at the Garden.

New York loves a winner, but for the hard-nosed hockey lovers in Manhattan the wrong team keeps winning. The Isles, 12 years old and based on Long Island 35 miles from Times Square, have won the NHL championship, the Stanley Cup, for the last four seasons. Starved of Stanley cup success since 1940, Ranger fans loathe their rivals with a vengeance.

Fishheads dumped

The Rangers, three times Stanley Cup winners, have been Manhattan's team for 58 years, yet for the past three seasons the Islanders have invaded their Madison Square Garden home in the playoffs and taken them to the cleaners.

CYCLING

New boost for city racing

By John Wilcockson



Roche: going home

The Dublin race takes place on August 14, with the assured participation of the two Irish cycling stars, Sean Kelly and Stephen Roche, who will be competing for the first time in a professional race in their own country.

"They are the worst when it comes to rudeness," said the second highest scorer in NHL history, Phil Esposito, a former Ranger player.

"I see no reason for it, except that by the time the game is over most of them are loaded. But they are still incredible fans. If the Rangers win the cup, the city would go absolutely crazy."

Gauntlets thrown

That is one reason why, even in their hour of triumph, the Islanders have a secret frustration. Despite their achievements on the ice, New York city is yawningly indifferent to their success.

It is not the fault of the players, whose cast of characters included a goaltender, Billy Smith, who is so obsessive about the play-offs that he refused to shake hands with opponents and moved into a hotel for two months to avoid the distraction of his wife.

Dennis Potvin, a hunk of granite in defence, Bob Mystrom, blond and battle-scared, and Clark Gillies a 6ft 3in 200lb forward, all throw down the gloves occasionally - a curious ritual in hockey, sanctioned by the league, in which players stop skating and enjoy a pickup. "With clubs in their hands and razors on their feet, it is better to fight cleanly and get it over with," Esposito explained.

That is to mentality New Yorkers appreciate. Fast, furious and frequently explosive, the Ranger Islander rivalry is a manifestation on the ice of Manhattan's hectic way of life.

Sue Mott

IN BRIEF

The wind of no change

Chris Lloyd won the Hilton Head Island women's tennis tournament in South Carolina for the seventh time on Monday (Reuter report). The top seed beat the unseeded West German, Claudia Kohde, 6-2, 6-3 in a final postponed on Sunday because of heavy rain. An unpredictable, swirling wind made playing difficult.

Pat Smyth, the world No 3, has entered for the Edgbaston Cup, the pre-Wimbledon international grass court tournament.

• The unseeded Catherine Tanvier of France, overcame nervousness to defeat the ninth-seeded Virginia Ruzici of Romania, yesterday, in the first round of the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) championships, at Amelia Island, Florida.

Miss Tanvier, who suffers from a nervous complaint that makes breathing difficult, won the first set on a tie-break and did the same in the third to win, 7-6, 1-6, 7-6.

BOWLS: George Souza (Hongkong) and David Bryant, respectively winner and runner-up last year, head the field for the Gateway Masters tournament at Worthing from June 1 to 3 (Gordon Allan writes). The other competitive are John Bell (England), Willie Wood (Scotland), Peter Bellis (New Zealand), Darby Ross (Australia), Francisco Souza (United States) and Dan Milligan (Canada).

CRICKET: LANCASHIRE ELEVATION, MIDDLESEX PROMOTION

Abrahams chosen to captain Lancashire

John Abrahams took over as captain of Lancashire yesterday, replacing Clive Lloyd, who will be leading the West Indies during their tour of England this season. Abrahams was vice-captain last year and captained the team for part of the season when Lloyd was absent.

The South African-born batsman

Dangling a carrot to boost finances and membership

Middlesex are offering free membership and a £500 holiday in Tenerife in a recruiting drive designed to swell their long term finances and membership. The scheme has been introduced by Tim Lamb, the new secretary who is alarmed at the drop in membership from 9,000 to 7,500 over the past three years.

Any member who introduces new business which trebles the £32.50 yearly subscription will receive a total refund or discount, a 50 per cent cut for doubling the subscription and 20 per cent cut for quadrupling it. The lucky member who brings in the most cash will get the free holiday.

Abrahams, the son of a former Lancashire league professional, took ten years to earn his cap and once was on the point of leaving. Jack Simmonds, the veteran all-rounder, has been made vice-captain.

"It is our biggest source of income and unfortunately some counties have treated members as second class citizens. They should be treated like the important people they are because their money is vital to the survival of any county."

Mike Gatting, captain of the Benson and Hedges cup holders, and county championship runners-up in 1983, is to be the first to benefit.

Gatting is hoping for a dry summer so that his team can

make up the year and that was

met with the pleasant problem of

choosing from three of his four fast bowlers during May because Wayne Daniel missed selection on this summer's West Indies tour.

Gatting said: "We all thought that Wayne had a very good chance of making the West Indies side. It is nice for the bowler who is left out. But if Norman Cowans is wanted by England for the Tests, then the position will resolve itself."

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Robson's school 'to rediscover Bobby Charlton'

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

The rich talent that once paved the backstreets of England is about to be nurtured in the open fields of Shropshire. The 25 most promising 14-year-olds in the country have been selected and will assemble at the Football Association National School, sponsored by General Motors, when term begins in early September.

The central theme of their education will be technique, an art once practised on every available piece of waste ground and now all but forgotten. Bobby Robson, England's manager, who founded the adventurous scheme, emphasized yesterday that "we must lay the foundations to rediscover the likes of Bobby Charlton."

He has long been aware that youngsters, instead of concentrating on skills, are being ushered too hastily towards the stresses of competition. "Some of our best youths are playing six times a week," he said. "They will suffer physically, their enthusiasm is sure to go, and they will be burnt out before their time."

"There are lots of matches at school level but not enough coaching and not enough practice. And you must practise. After all, if I play the piano once a week and you play it once a day, the chances are that after two years you will be the better pianist."

The boys will live for the next two years at Lilleshall, where they will be under the guidance of Dave Sexton, the manager of

Fixture problem looms for UEFA Cup clubs

Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest will have a fixture problem if they win through to face each other in the UEFA Cup final. Tottenham are due to travel to Southampton on May 7, two days before the first leg of the final. Forest cannot even think about a date for their rearranged League meeting with Manchester United because of both clubs' European commitments.

England's manager, Bobby Robson, has ruled out the club one free game — from April 30 — because of clashes with the British championship game against Wales at Wrexham.

If we allow them to play then, my international plans would be decimated. If we can't get players in international week, we'll never going to get them.

"They have my sympathy. When we play with Ipswich I remember having four games, including European and FA Cup semi-finals, plus a trip, in just seven days."

Tottenham had Southampton's approval to switch their League

England's match in Brazil will be televised live

England's match against Brazil in South America this summer will be shown live on television in England. The game in Rio on June 10, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the FA, is due to go out on ITN's 9pm Friday night.

The other two games on the summer tour — against Uruguay in Montevideo on June 13 (11 pm) and Chile in Santiago on June 16 (10 pm), will also be televised. But the final details have yet to be worked out and it is not known whether either game will be shown live, especially as they clash with the opening matches in the European Championship in France.

The English FA have also asked Chile if it is possible to move that international to Sunday, June 17, to ease Bobby Robson's side's hectic programme.

The FA have announced that England will play in East Germany is a friendly at Wembley on September 12 next season.

Southend profit

Southend United made a profit of £3.37 last year despite a loss of £67,362 carried over from the previous season.

Moorcroft aims to banish his nagging doubt, in Olympic year

Running clear of the shadows

Dave Moorcroft is running on borrowed time and knows that the Los Angeles are his last realistic chance of winning an Olympic title. But the 3,000 metres world record holder from Coventry is not prepared to predict that he will return this summer with a gold medal.

"That has never been my style," said the 31-year-old former teacher. "There are always so many imponderables and Olympic medals are always the hardest to win. Now I've got to look at every season as being extremely important and you can't get more important than the Olympic Games. There is no way I can look four years ahead and plan for that, so this is the most important thing in running terms I've ever done."

Moorcroft's two major disappointments came in the Moscow Olympics where he was hit by a stomach upset, and went out of the 5,000 metres in the semi-finals and the 1982 European Championships in Athens, where he was favourite after his early season world record run, but then only took third place.

"I accept in Athens the medal I won wasn't the one I was hoping to get and that Moscow went very badly," he added.

Now he is clear of injury and illness and has already been pre-selected for Los Angeles, after achieving a qualifying time in New Zealand in February. "I'm not really thinking about my



In defence of wingers: Gayle and Chamberlain put their case

National prayer for wingers answered

By Clive White

Bobby Robson, the England manager, has responded swiftly to the wide appeal for wingers to lift our international game by choosing not one, but two, Chamberlain and Gayle, against Italy at Maine Road, tonight, in the first leg of the European under-21 championships semi-final.

The decision, though, may have been thrust upon him by a staggering number of calls withdrawn from the team, which performed with such discipline in France in the quarter-finals last month, when an aggregate win of 7-2 was achieved. A heavy League programme this week is to blame for much of the disruption, but it gives an opportunity to five new players, one of whom is Gayle, the dark, fleet-footed Birmingham City winger, who has had to withdraw because of injury. Only Watson, Carlton, the captain, and Sterland remain from the last team.

Dave Sexton, the under-21 manager, is always a little apprehensive about such matters. "There is no point in crying about it. We have to make the best of the situation," he said. "It does give other players the chance of making the grade and often something good comes out of it."

It is ironic that while everyone whines about how a full England team has been irreparably damaged by injury and club commitment, the under-21 team plods on towards glory. They seem less affected by changes. Perhaps the reason is that they are so mature at this level, and harder in their quality to the seniors. Because they are not possessed of players of outstanding merit in that position, otherwise he would pick them.

Chamberlain, particularly, is good enough to change his opinion if the confidence is there. At his best, he is phenomenally quick, skilful, and can cross an exacting ball with the minimum of back-lift of expectation.

The other four new caps are: Hucker (Queen's Park Rangers), Stewart (Arsenal), Brock (Oxford United) and D'Avry (Ipswich Town).

D'Avry's selection is interesting, not least of its topicality. He is South African-born, like Zola Budd, the young female athlete at the centre of a political storm over her wish to run for Britain, but unlike her it took him six years to

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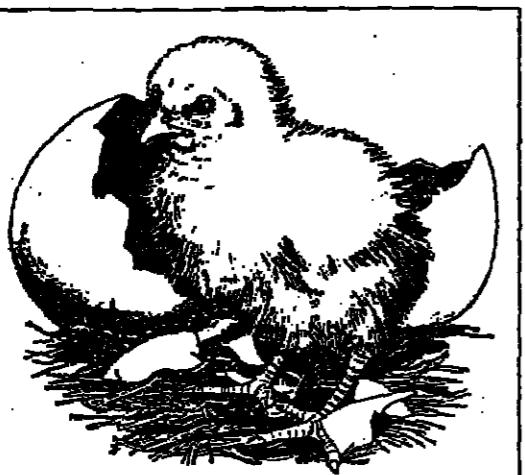
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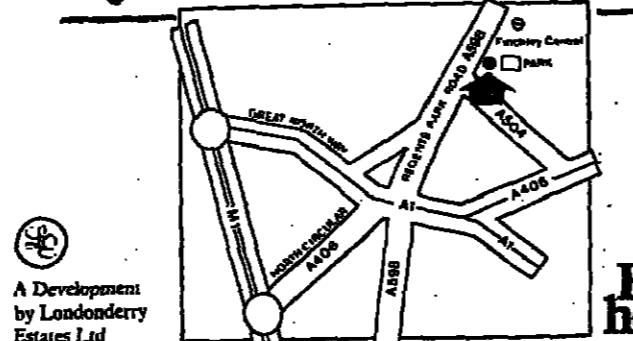
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All change at Essex now that prices are taking off

by Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

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but in the level of property prices compared, say, with Surrey.

Recently, however, changes have
been taking place, and suddenly the
roads are greatly improved to all parts
of the county. Its trunk roads are
better and bypasses avoid the big
towns and cities with the exception of
bottlenecks at Chelmsford and Braintree.
The M11 and now the M25 orbital
motorway, which is rapidly being
joined up, are providing quick
and efficient access.

The result is that Essex is seeing
something like a property boom, and
with demand exceeding supply for
quality houses the shortage of
property is accompanied by increasing
prices.

Abbotts, agents specializing in
Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk, say prices
are going up at all levels from the
smallest terrace cottage to the more
expensive properties.

They quote the recent sale by
auction of Elms Farm, West Hanningfield,
near Chelmsford. Set in 10.5 acres,
the sixteenth century farm
house with seven bedrooms and
additions is Grade II listed, unspoilt
but in need of substantial renovation.
Tentatively valued by others at
£75,000 to £85,000 it was eventually
offered for auction by Abbotts with a
reserve of £95,000 and was sold for
£126,500.

Demand also resulted in the initial
guide price being exceeded for two
modern properties in the
£100,000-plus bracket - a spacious
detached house in North Weald,
Billericay, sold for £108,000, while
another with a one-acre garden, in the
village of Stock, sold for £17,500
compared with the guide price of
£15,000.

Abbotts' Chelmsford office are now
offering for sale Hill Place, Wickham
Bishops, a Grade II listed country
house with 12 acres. The house
is in the sixteenth century with
additions in the eighteenth and
nineteenth centuries, has been
restored and modernized in the last
few years and has a brew house, coach
house and dining room of two
acres.

Mr Gibson says these are at present
virtually no true country houses in
rural Essex in the £10,000-25,000 range,
and those that are available are
largely overvalued. One reason for
overvaluation, he says, is because
some agents do not have enough
knowledge of comparable properties.

In addition he believes some agents
are increasing their valuation to
obtain instructions on sales and says
this "dubious" practice is becoming
more common with fewer houses
coming on to the market and more
agents competing for them. This over
valuation, he adds, should not be
confused with an

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Catch your salmon – for £37,000

■ Fishing rights on the lower Bingham and lower Carham fisheries on the River Tweed in Berwickshire are for sale by Fishing and Sporting Holidays Ltd through Savills of Brechin. Rights for three rods are being offered on a time-ownership basis from the autumn, giving the buyer the exclusive right to fish for salmon, grilse and sea trout for fixed fortnightly periods.

The cost of a time-ownership unit – one spring and one autumn week in perpetuity – ranges from £7,500 to £37,500.

■ Robert Adey, Conservative MP for Christchurch, is to sell his Regency house in Lympstone, Hampshire, for around £200,000 through Knight Frank and Tailey and Jackson and Jackson of Lympstone. The sale of his property, Woodend, is partly the result of boundary changes to his constituency, which is now wholly within Dorset and no longer includes Lympstone. The house has three reception rooms, three bedroom suites and four further bedrooms. The two series of grounds display items of Mr Adey's collection of railway memorabilia, including level crossing gates and a full-sized signal, but they are not included in the sale.

Ancient farm

■ A listed farmhouse near Petworth, West Sussex, is on the market for the first time in 400 years. It is believed to have been a yeoman's house in the sixteenth century, and is no longer needed by the Leconfield Estate and requires modernization. Peacock's Farmhouse was originally timber-framed but was later re-fronted in stone. It has two reception rooms and three bedrooms, an inglenook fireplace and exposed beams. The Petworth office of Smiths Gore are seeking offers above £100,000. The sale includes a range of buildings with potential for conversion – and three-quarters of an acre of land.

■ Two detached cottages on the Cowdray estate in West Sussex, both said to be "ripe for conversion", have been auctioned through King and Chasenore. A three-bedded cottage in Diddling hamlet near Midhurst, fetched £56,000, and the second – also three bedroom – in open country side near Midhurst, sold for £65,000.

■ A farm sale in Hampshire last week shows that there is still a high demand for commercial, w.e. maintained, quality farms within easy reach of London despite the uncertainty caused by the EEC common agricultural policy. Agents Austin and Wyatt sold Anders Ash Farm, Liss, near Petersfield, which has 272 acres of grade 2 and 3 land and a friesian herd, for £730,000 at auction, equivalent to £2,683 per acre overall or £2,851 per acre ploughable.



Once owned by Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stones singer, Stargroves, near Newbury, Berkshire, is for sale. Knight, Frank and Rutley (through its Hungerford office) and Christopher Stephenson International are seeking more than £500,000 for the freehold of the Victorian mansion, which is set in 37 acres of parkland. Built around 1877, and with two towers surmounted by a castellated parapet, the building is listed Grade II. Accommodation includes a galleried hall, three reception rooms, five principal and five other bedrooms, with an additional 12 rooms in the north and south towers and an adjoining flat.

Invest in a Rolls

The spectacular Hendre estate near Monmouth, home of the Rolls family since 1767 and now a leisure complex with a golf course as well as an agricultural and residential estate, is to be sold this summer if a partner cannot be found to help develop the leisure side of the business.

Humberstone – with their leisure division, Humberstone Landplan – have been instructed by the owner, John Harding-Rolls, to seek a partner for a joint venture to exploit the estate's potential. Mr Harding-Rolls is looking for a corporate or private partner, or an investment syndicate, to join him.

If he fails to find one, the estate – 1,450 acres of farmland and forestry with 36 cottages and the main house set in a 300-acre championship golf course and leisure complex – will be auctioned in June or July, probably for between £3m and £4m.

The house, originally a hunting lodge, has been extended by successive generations. John Alan Rolls, the first Baron Llangattock, was an enthusiastic bibliophile and he commissioned the fine Cedar Library from Sir Aston Webb, the architect who built the facade of Buckingham Palace and Admiralty Arch. Charles Rolls, co-founder of the Rolls-Royce motor company, was the son of the first Lord Llangattock.

There is detailed planning consent for the use of the house as a hotel and conference centre and for a further wing of letting bedrooms. The estate has 10 period cottages suitable for a time-share scheme, subject to refurbishment, and the estate has detailed planning consent for a holiday village

of 52 time-share cottages and provision for squash, tennis and an integrated leisure operation.

Nigel Talbot-Ponsonby, managing partner of Humberstone Landplan, said that the range of joint venture operations was flexible, and that The Hendre had great potential. Such a development is likely to cause a stir in Monmouth, but not quite the commotion caused by Charles Rolls when he once arrived in the town at midnight driving a Peugeot, the first car the local people had seen.

Across Britain in Northamptonshire, Humberstone Landplan are involved in a somewhat different deal – selling on behalf of Mrs Stuart Symington the Gulsborough Wildlife Park. The park includes a Regency house in 30 acres of gardens and parkland, where more than 400 animals and birds of 70 varieties can be seen. The park is on offer for £275,000-plus, including livestock such as lions, tigers, leopards, monkeys and seals. The livestock alone are valued at £20,000. Mrs Symington explains that she is sad to be retiring from Gulsborough after 13 years, but feels that "a modest injection of capital and some youthful enthusiasm would take the wildlife park to new heights."

More than 60,000 people last year visited the park, where one of the main attractions is Kali, the Symingtons' seven-year-old cross-bred Collie bitch, which has foster-mothered an astonishing variety of cubs, including lions, leopards, pumas, arctic foxes, badgers and tigers.

C.W.

SAVILLS

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Deal 4 miles. Canterbury 11 miles.

About 160 ACRES

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Barnard Castle - 5 miles. Scotch Corner - 16 miles

Outstanding driven grouse moor in one of the best areas in the Pennines

21 year average of 370 brace.

2 days driving.

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Freehold moorland and farm - 1,388 acres

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SAVILLS

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THE CHILTERN – HERTFORDSHIRE About 14 ACRES

Little Gaddesden 1 mile, Berkhamsted 4½ miles, London 29 miles.

Attractive period farmhouse in a quiet rural setting surrounded by its own land.

2 reception rooms, 4/5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Oil-fired central heating. Double garage, barn, garden, spinney and paddocks.

About 14 acres.

A further 14 acres of adjoining land is offered subject to a tenancy.

AUCTION 24th May (unless previously sold).

Joint Agents: BROWN & MERRY, Woolerton House, 7 High Street, Wenvoe, Aylesbury, Tel: (0296) 622855. SAVILLS, London

London Balfour Beatty Brechin Cambridge Chelmsford Croydon Edinburgh Hertford

COTTAGE

Local building land left at More. In development of 6 to 8 old orchard, 10 acre site, stream & mill. 3 bed. 2 reception rooms, 2 bath. 2 sats. Choice of bathroom & kitchen. 3 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 1000 ft. 2 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. Tel: 01-828 820414.

DITCHESTER, MS 3m. Bristed 10m. 3 bedroom semi-detached house, 2 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £120,000. Tel: 01-222 0433. (from Estate) Quaints (038779) 214.

HINTON/WALTON house. Large modernised, 3 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £120,000. Tel: 01-222 0433. (from Estate) Quaints (038779) 214.

PENZANCE PROMENADE. Immaculate 3 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £120,000. Tel: 01-222 0433. (from Estate) Quaints (038779) 214.

NUNWICH. Large, detached house in quiet area near Nunwiche. 2 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £120,000. Tel: 01-222 0433. (from Estate) Quaints (038779) 214.

WITCHAM close Sandringham. Attractive 3 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £120,000. Tel: 01-222 0433. (from Estate) Quaints (038779) 214.

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THATCHED COTSWOLDS

Stone cottage. Many traditional features. 3 bed. 1 open fire. 3 bed. 2 bath. Tel: 060844-445.

STUNNING detached family house in the beautiful village. Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £200,000. Tel: 01-828 820414.

SUFFOLK. Beautiful home, old world

modernised, 3 bed. 2 bath. 2 sats. 200 ft. 2nd floor, sunroom, 3 fireplaces. Offers around £120,000. Tel: 01-222 0433. (from Estate) Quaints (038779) 214.

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Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

BBC 1

8.00 *Ceefax AM*. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.

8.30 *Breakfast Time* with Frank Bough and Selina Scott. News from Peter Britton at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; television preview at 6.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.18 and 8.18; Mike Smith with the new *Top Twenty* between 7.55 and 8.00; horoscopes at 8.33.

9.00 *British at the Pinnacles*. Animated science fiction series 9.20 *Look Back With Neale*. John Noakes and his dog, Sheep, tour north west England by canoe (1.50) *The All New Popeye Show* (r).

10.00 *Why Don't You? 7* ideas from Cardiff for bored teenagers. 10.20 *Over the Engine* (r). 10.30 *Play School*, presented by Stuart McGugan.

10.55 *Gharber*. Magazine programme for Asian women. Among the items is Taj Hashmi talking to Asma Bawa and Tulsi Thakral, a widow and widower, about bereavement. 11.20 *Ceefax*.

12.20 *Seven Days That Changed the World*. Tom Fleming with another religious story for Holy Week.

12.30 *News Afternoon* with Philip Hayes and Frances Coward. The weather prospects come from Ian MacCaskill. 12.57 *Personal news* (London and SE only: Financial report follow by news headlines with subtitles).

1.00 *Pebble Mill at One*. Among the guests are snooker commentator Ted Lowe; cook Michael Smith and the Flying Pickets' 1.45 *Gran* (r). 1.50 *Stop-Go* (r).

2.00 *Cartoon* Tom and Jerry 2.05 Film: *Frankie and Johnny* starring Elvyn Presley as a riverboat entertainer who should have joined gamblers' anonymous. Directed by Frederick de Cordova. 3.30 *Daffy Duck's Easter Special*.

3.55 *Play School*, presented by Iain Lauchan. 4.20 *The Parrots of Penelope* (r). 4.40 *Rentghost* (r). 5.05 *John Graven's Newsround*. 5.10 *Break Point*. Part three of the drama serial about junior tennis players (r).

5.40 *Sixty Minutes* includes news at 5.40 from Moira Stuart; weather at 5.54; regional magazines at 5.55; and news headlines at 6.38.

6.40 *Young Musician of the Year* 1984. Humphrey Burton introduces the semi-finalists in the brass section.

7.15 *Film: The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw* (1958) starring Kenneth More and Jayne Mansfield. Light-hearted western with More playing a timid English gunsmith who becomes the most feared man in Tombstone. Directed by Raoul Walsh.

8.00 *News with John Humphrys*. 8.25 *Q.E.D. - The Quest for Mastermind's Brain*. Mastermind champion, ex-London underground train driver Chris Hughes, is taken on an exploration of his brain (see Choice).

8.55 *Sportnight* introduced by Harry Carpenter. Boxing and snooker on offer tonight with the George Wimpey ABA semi-finals from Preston and a preview of the World Snooker championship with a look at the relatively unknown competitors who have to qualify for the big event.

11.10 *Remington Steele* investigate the death of a Japanese in a motoring accident. His brother believes that it was murder, a theory that is reached by the redoubtable duo of private detectives.

12.00 *Seven Days That Changed the World*. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.20.

12.10 *News headlines and weather*.

TV-am

8.25 *Good Morning Britain*, presented by John Stapleton and Nick Owen. News from Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and headlines at 9.00; sport at 6.55 and 7.35; exercises at 6.50 and 8.55; the day's anniversaries at 7.05 and 8.05; a guest in the Spotlight at 7.20; cartoon at 7.25; *Eric Morecambe* at 7.40; part one of the video of the Michael Jackson story at 7.55; *Eric Morecambe's Magic Moments* at 8.10; *Eve Pollard's gossip column* at 8.35; and 9.00 *Horizon* *Goes East*.

ITV/LONDON

9.25 *Thames news headlines* followed by *Seasame Street*.

11.25 *Flirt: Laurel and Hardy in We Few Down* (1928) in which Laurel is a schoolboy unknown to his teacher. Directed by Leo McCarey. 10.50 *Northeast America*. Author James Michener traces the influence of the millions of immigrants to the northeastern part of the United States.

11.40 *Sport Billy*. Cartoon adventures of the world's greatest athlete (r).

12.00 *Atarah's Music*. Atarah Bentovim gets a tune from a flute. 12.10 *Sounds Like a Story*. Mark Wynter with the tale of the Cowherd and the Alphorn (r). 12.30 *The Sullivans*.

1.00 *News*. 1.20 *Thames news with Robin Houston*. 1.30 *A Plus Holy Week*. The second of three programmes about the Cross and palm Sunday. The discussion with John Solly, Gummer MP; Frank Field MP; and Dr Digby Anderson, director of the Social Affairs Unit. 2.00 *Take the High Road*. The mysterious new tenant arrives at the Dower House.

2.30 *A Country Practice*. Drama in the Australian outback. 3.30 *Sons and Daughters*. Patricia makes a desperate bid to keep John under her control.

4.00 *Atarah's Music*. A repeat of the programme shown at noon. 4.15 *Aubrey*. Cartoon adventures of an odd inventor (r). 4.20 *Letty*. Brian owns up to stealing 4.50 *Razzmatazz*. Pop magazine programme presented by Alastair Parie and Clare Grogan.

5.15 *Emmardelle Farm*. Amos Bremby tries his hand at a little do-it-yourself and fails miserably.

5.45 *News 5.00 Thame News*.

6.25 *Help! Viv Taylor Gee* with news of Community Service Volunteers.

6.35 *Crossroads*. Angela Reece has a spine-chilling premonition.

7.00 *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. Episode eight: August. Ernest Smith makes an unexpected call on Edith and their friendship develops.

7.30 *Carnation Street*. Deirdre finds out about husband Ken's involvement with an 'egony-aunt'.

8.00 *This is Your Life*. Eamonn Andrews lies in wait to emotionally mug another unsuspecting worthy.

9.00 *Mr Palfrey of Westminster*. The first of a four-part drama starring Alec McCowen as a courtier espionage expert (see Choice).

10.00 *News* followed by *Thames news headlines*.

10.30 *A Celebration of British Fashion* introduced by Diane Keen from the Harrogate Centre. A gala event in aid of the mentally handicapped, presented in association with Marks and Spencer.

11.30 *Newswatch*.

12.25 *Buried Meanings*. Gill Nevill asks theologian Keith Ward and author Mary Craig 'can we still believe in heaven and hell?'

12.30 *Seven Days That Changed the World*. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.20.

12.40 *News headlines and weather*.

BBC 2

9.05 *Open University: Gibbon: The Ruins of Rome*. 9.30 *Religion: The Roaring Silence*. 9.55 *Cybernetics and Co-ordination*. 10.20 *Composers in Musical Languages*. 7.45 *Microfossils*. Ends at 9.10.

12.00 *Film: The Great American Broadcast* (1941) starring Alice Faye, Jack Oakie and John Payne. An amateur drama about three performers trying to make a success during the early days of sound broadcasting. Directed by Archie Mayo.

5.35 *News summary with subtitles*.

5.40 *Film: A Man Alone* (1955), starring Ray Milland and Mary Murphy. Gunfighter Wesley Steele discovers the wreckage and the dead bodies from a stage-coach hold-up and accidentally kills a law officer. While on the run he finds out who is responsible for the robbery and killings. Competent supporting cast includes Lee Van Cleef and Raymond Burr. Directed by Ray Milland.

7.15 *Swallows and Amazons*. Forever Part two of The Big Six. Police constable Tedder's suspicions mount as to the guilt of the Daunt and Glory boys when he discovers that they have been using his money. But are they really responsible for the boat yard break-ins? Only Dick, Dot and Tom seem to think that they are innocent.

7.40 *Karen Silkwood Deceased*. Philip Treharne re-tells the story that he investigated for Panorama about the young woman who died in mysterious circumstances as she tried to draw attention to hazards at the plutonium plant where she worked.

8.30 *Top Gear* investigates the pros and cons of driving on the Continent.

9.00 *On Stage* introduced by Glyn Worsnip. Lionel Blair, Janet Brown, Leslie Phillips, Doris Hare and John Junkin recall some of the funny things that happened to them on the way to theatre and on stage.

9.30 *Play: A Woman Calling*, by Anne Devlin. A psychological thriller about Laura who has spent three years in a Belfast hospital, dependent on drugs and unable to sleep with the light out. She returns to the scene of her terror and turns to a psychologist to help her forget. Starring Tony Doyle and Paula Hamilton.

10.00 *Film: 1+1-3* (1979) starring Adeleh Arudi, Dominik Graf and Christof Quast. A comedy about an actress who becomes pregnant and undecided about two men - one the father, the other, one who is desperately protective of the unborn child. Directed by Heinz Gennet.

10.20 *Treasures from Korea*. A Chronicle Special that previews the exhibition opening at the British Museum in May.

11.00 *Photo Assignment*. Terence Donovan with a nude assignment in the Lancashire Pennines.

12.10 *Open University: The Poison Process*. 12.35 *The Nigerian Civil War*. 1.00 *Sexual Identity*. Ends at 1.30.

12.35 *last Breakfast's Continuous Diary*.

12.40 *Closedown*.

● The Michael Bentine affair has given MR PALFREY OF WESTMINSTER (ITV, 9.00pm) a dimension of topicality that nobody could have dreamt of when the transmission date was fixed. Its background is a sudden reorganization in the Security Service because Something has Gone Terribly Wrong. Mr Palfrey, a master of the art of counter-espionage, who has just noted a salmon on a fishing holiday, is summoned back to Westminster to pursue a suspected traitor. Ostensibly he is a low-level agent, but the signs point in a different direction. He returns to only two days of his new identity as a depressing office dominated by a ghostly painting, and a less dominating new security co-ordinator whom he rightly categorizes as "another iron Lady." This new, four-part thriller has a vein of sharp humour running through it.

● Palfrey himself has marginally more charm than Guinness's George Miller, and Alec McCowen plays him to perfection.

● Just as BBC Television's *Masters* has re-routed the career of its top-drawer winner Fred Housego, so it now promises to open up a new stretch of track for a former train driver. Chris Hughes, last year's *CHASER*, THE QUEST FOR MASTERMIND (ITV, 9.25pm) has put Mr Hughes back in the single-leather chair, reunites him with Magnus Magnusson, and finds him uncharacteristically saying "pah" to such questions as: what does your brain look like, sliced down the middle? The rest of this joke edition of *QED* finds the substantial Mr Hughes, still sporting the Heavy Freight GWR emblem on

CHOICE

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the familiar blue pullover, launched into a world of X-ray machines, ultrasound gadgetry (I'm happy to say over his tummy), and - ultimately - a nuclear magnetic resonance where the quest both for a picture of the Hughes' cerebrum and for his new identity as a television performer, ends. And, on both counts, ends successfully.

● **GREAT STATE OCCASIONS** YOU MAY HAVE MISSED (Radio 4, 9.15pm) is a leg-pull from BBC Scotland: an outside broadcast of George IV's visit to Edinburgh 162 years ago. Possibly the peak of Georgian wireless achievement, says the BBC. While not quite the peak of Elizabethan radio fun, Patrick Raftery's diverting half-hour is ambitiously conceived whimsy.

Peter Davalle

(Romero/English Chamber Orchestra) 1.30 News. 8.05 *Midweek Choice* part two. Faure's *Ballade* Op 19 (Collard/Toulouse Capital Orchestra); Strauss's *Death in Venice* (Cordier/Osiris and Wolf-Ferrari's suite *Jewels* of the Madonna); 9.00 News.

9.05 *This Week's Composers*: The New England School. Convalesc's *Endymion's Narrative* romance for orchestra; Gliere's *Mazurka* (piano); and Poole's *String Quartet* D.1.

10.00 *Plant Dust*: James Anagnoson and Leslie Kinnock play *Stravinsky's Three Easy Pieces*; *Easy Pieces*; Ravel's *Mother Goose*; and Delibes's *Allegro Brillante* Op 22.

10.40 *Mravinsky conducts Shostakovich's* the Symphony No 10. John Dunn including 8.05 Sport (match results); 8.30 News; 9.00 Forces; 9.30 Weather.

11.10 *String Quartet*: Haydn's Quartet in G Op 20 No 2; and Christopher Brown's *Quartet No 2*.

12.00 *Marthu and Berwald*: the BBC Scottish SO, with Dennis Salina (piano); *String Quartet*; and *Beethoven's Choral* Op 140.

1.05 *Off the Beaten Track*: Miles Kington with some rejected or undervalued treasures on record.

1.30 *Man on the Roman Road*: The City of Ghosts and Dragons: York to Durham. The sixth of Tom Vernon's eight repeated programmes.

1.45 *Midweek Choice* part one. Miles Kington's Amazing Mr Albus: *Albus* (1978); interlinked French folk melodies; *Resiger's Concerto* Op 29; *Amico's Marigold Garden*: Cats have come to eat; *Delius's La Calabria*; *Delibes's Concerto for Light Orchestra*; also *Enesco's A Legend*.

2.35 *Recital Allegri String Quartet play Dvorak's Divertimento*; Wolf's *Italian Serenade*; and *Britten's Quintet*.

3.00 *Newspack*: 6.30 *Orchestravision*.

3.15 *London Philharmonic play the Ballad of Narayana*: The BBC 2 series *The Mind of a Master*.

3.45 *Unfinished Business*, Swiss psychiatrist Dr Elisabeth Kubler-Ross talks about her work with the terminally ill.

4.15 *Greater State Occasions* You May Have Missed. Another in a very occasional series of rare and unlikely treasures from the BBC Sound Archives. Bright - an outside broadcast first heard in 1922.

4.45 *Kaleidoscope*. Topics include the film *Ballad of Narayana*; the BBC 2 series *The Mind of a Master*.

5.00 *Music News*.

5.15 *Debut*: recital by Richard Lester (piano), with Susan Torme (piano). Beethoven's *Sonata in A* Op 69.

5.45 *Beethoven's Sonatas* (1-6 Op 69). 6.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 6.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 6.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 6.55 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 7.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 7.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 7.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 8.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 8.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 8.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 8.55 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 9.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 9.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 9.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 10.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 10.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 10.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 11.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 11.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 11.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 11.55 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 12.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 12.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 12.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 12.55 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 13.00 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 13.30 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 13.45 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 13.55 *String Quartet* (1-6 Op 69). 14.00 *String Quartet* (1-6

Thatcher ready to tackle total pit shutdown

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Government has prepared contingency plans for a total pit strike in two weeks. Cabinet papers from the civil emergency sub-committee have gone out to the electricity generating authority in readiness for a complete cessation of coal supplies.

Ministers calculate that tomorrow's special delegate conference in Sheffield of the National Union of Mineworkers will either spread the "rolling strike" through more intensive picketing or halt the industry by a national strike ballot.

Their forward planning for power supply envisages a series of thresholds through which coal and power supply could pass in the next few weeks.

The worst scenario is an all-out strike early next month which would halt the million-tonne a week supply of coal going into the power stations in the Trent Valley, critical to the operation of the national grid.

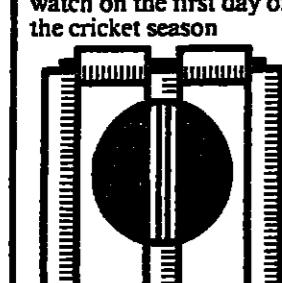
If that happens, the generating authorities calculate that coal stocks in the power stations will last at least 16 and up to 20 weeks. The operating lifetime of the stations could be extended if the oil burn is maximised.

Tomorrow

Civil words
The Times Profile:
Writer, poet and ex-civil servant C. H. Sisson at 70

The write stuff
A. J. P. Taylor's Diary,
Randolph Churchill, the latest fiction and children's books reviewed

First innings
Simon Barnes and Richard Streeton keep watch on the first day of the cricket season



The great divide
Living next door to a war: a Special Report on Kuwait

£1,300 fine on arm case farmer

The employer of the farm-worker who carried his severed arm across fields and had it sewn back on in hospital was fined £1,300 and ordered to pay £1,000 court costs yesterday.

Mr Richard Markham, aged 43, was found guilty of five summonses for failing to have safety guards on equipment at his farm in Henton, Oxfordshire. He pleaded not guilty.

Health and safety officials told magistrates at Thame, Oxfordshire, that Mr Markham, was previously warned twice about safety regulations.

Mr Markham said he thought the biler that ripped off Mr Roy Tapping's arm was guarded when it was being used. He added: "I don't feel I caused Roy to lose his arm."

Mr Tapping, aged 33, of Bedlow, Buckinghamshire, said afterwards: "I bear no grudge against him. You could say we're pals."

Observer editor vows to stay

By David Cross

Mr Daniel Treford, editor of *The Observer*, is cutting short a holiday in Guernsey to fight any attempt by Mr Roland (Tiny) Rowland, the Sunday newspaper's proprietor, to unseat him.

If there is an all-out strike,

the Government is preparing to ask the construction companies, Taylor Woodrow, McAlpine and Wimpey, for the loan of 30-tonne trucks that could be used as "lorry trains" to break a miners' union blockade of pithead coal stocks.

That initiative is regarded as

more diplomatic than the use of

troops to shift coal out of strike-

bound collieries to the power

stations where supplies begin to

run out within the next few months.

Officials of the generating au-

thorities have been taken aback by the vehemence with

which the government is pur-

suading its policy on the coal

strike. They conceded grudgingly in private that Mrs Margaret Thatcher is willing to

spend any amount of money to

ensure that the Government is

not again defeated by the miners' union.

Strike pledge, page 2



Mr Nkomo at yesterday's press conference (Photograph by Chris Harris).

Church hits back at Mugabe and denies supporting rebels

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Amid the uproar here over foreign press coverage of Zimbabwe, the Catholic Church has been supplied by church sources.

The latest round of recrimination was directed at foreign correspondents, with Mr Mugabe threatening on Monday to take "very firm steps to curb mischievous-making" in British and American newspapers.

The Government has not issued a denial of allegations made by Mr Donald Treford in Sunday's edition of *The Observer*.

In an interview on yesterday's *World at One* programme on BBC Radio 4, Mr Treford described the criticisms of his report as "nonsense". He said he would not be inhibited by "the lies that are being said about my story. I will defend the integrity of my report. I will defend the integrity and independence of *The Observer*."

Mr Rowland, who is chairman of the Lonrho group which owns *The Observer*, has already apologized to Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, for the report. Lonrho has large financial and business interests in Zimbabwe.

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Mr Treford said that Mr Rowland had known last Saturday that the churchmen in Matabeleland were sympathized with guerrillas in the province and worshipped Mr Joshua Nkomo alongside God, as

he believed. The statement said it should have been clear that the bishops had never been involved in party politics and were concerned only "with protecting innocent people against brutality, the violation of their human rights and starvation".

With journalists prohibited from the curfew area of Matabeleland South, much of the information emerging on the killing, torture, beatings and starvation of civilians has

been supplied by church sources.

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